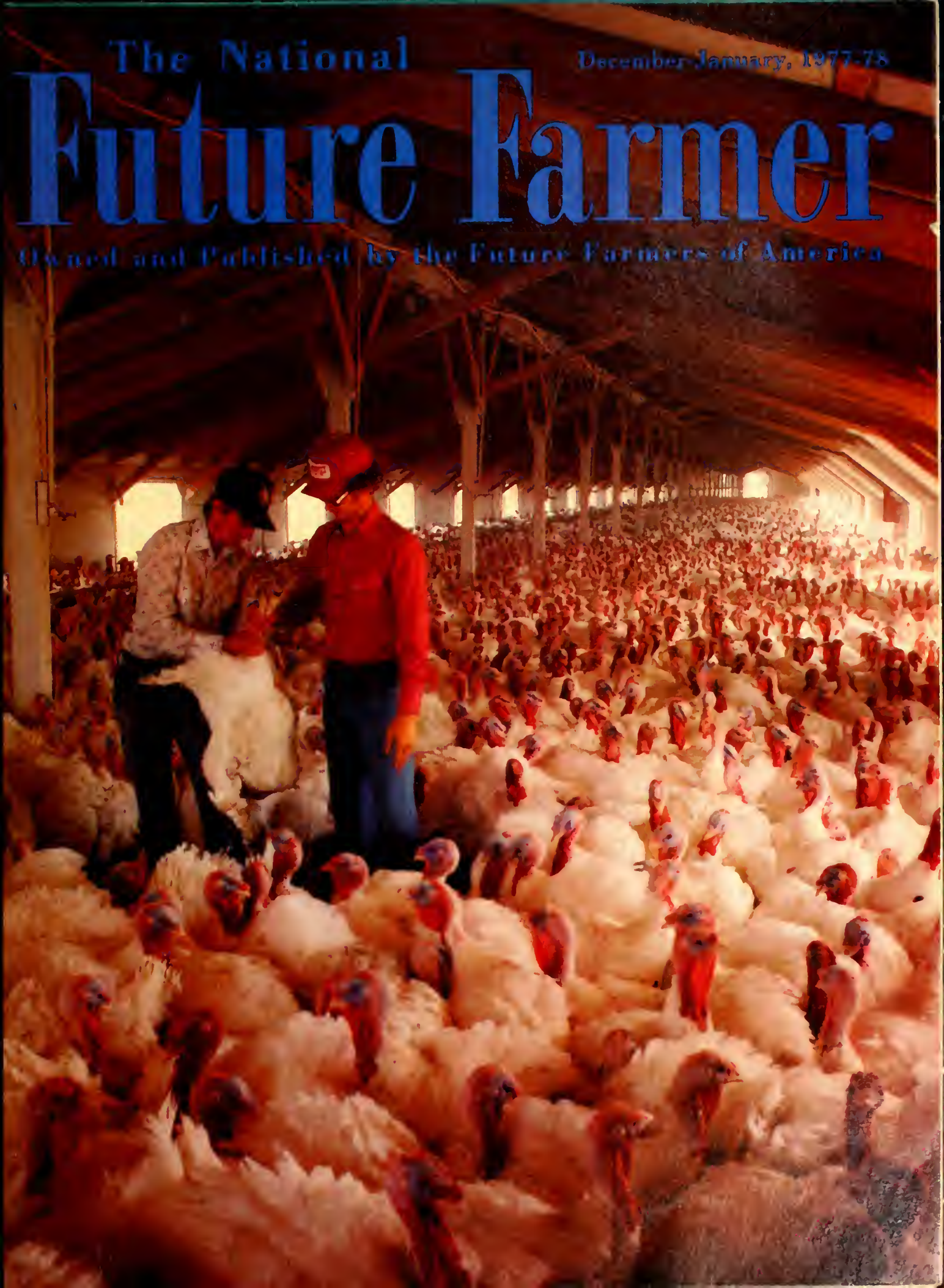
The National

Future Farmer

December-January, 1977-78

Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America



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The National
Future Farmer
Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America
Volume 26 Number 2
December-January, 1977-78

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A Word With The Editor

This issue of the FFA magazine deals with a variety of topics we hope you will find of interest. There is the story of Sam Adams who wanted to be a farmer and a dairy farmer at that. It has been a struggle but he is seeing his dream come true. He talked with Associate Editor Nowels about this struggle as they walked his fields together recently.

Then there is a story about the most northern FFA chapter in the nation—Selawik, Alaska, only 275 miles from the Russian border. Their efforts to establish agriculture production to replace a dwindling native food supply almost defies solution. Field Editor Gary Bye provides this on-the-spot report.

Other articles talk about credit, trends in the price of farmland, the first state FFA convention in Alaska, how to study for a test . . . and more.

The big one is the National FFA Convention coverage—from your new national officers to the glitter and excitement. Associate Editors Jack Pitzer and K. Elliott Nowels team together for this last minute report and rush it to the printer so the convention coverage can be included in this issue. This is just another effort by your national magazine to keep the information it brings to you timely and up to date.

Wilson Carnes

In This Issue

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The Cover

About 6,500 happy turkeys—before Thanksgiving. Dave Johnson, 1975 national Poultry Proficiency award winner and Ron Barkema, this year's national winner—both of the South Hamilton FFA—take a look at the products of Dave's confinement operation in Iowa. Related story on Page 30.

Cover photo by K. Elliott Nowels

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You may win one of five $995.00 Art Scholarships or any one of seventy-five $10.00 cash prizes.

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Looking Ahead

Agriculture

AERIAL REMOTE SENSING has been found to be a superior method of locating cotton root rot affected areas by researchers at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The disease is particularly detectable by aerial infrared photography due to the nature of wilting and death of the plant. Affected plants have a widely different near-infrared reflection than do surrounding healthy plants. Soil samples then can be obtained and and sodium applied to the infested areas of the fields after the crop has been harvested.

SHREDDED LETTUCE HAS FOUND new life—at least two more weeks. Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service have developed several methods to increase storage life for restaurants, institutions and fast-food chains that buy it in ready-to-use form. When shredded lettuce is shipped and stored at 34° F, marketability is retained for 26 days compared with the more common 10 days at 50°. Airtight containers, dry storage and sharp knives for less physical damage when shredding also help it last longer.

FIRST EUROPEAN TRACTOR pull was held in October at Holland's premier farm show, the Flevohof. Two American tractors—a twin Dodge powered modified owned by Les Houck, Kinzers, Pennsylvania, and a Deutz 9006 super stocker driven by Mark Stauffer, New Holland, Pennsylvania—were shipped there for exhibition runs before a crowd of 35,000. Twenty-five smaller Dutch and German tractors had a go at competition pulling, using a weight transfer machine shipped by boat from the U.S. The pull was held in conjunction with the World Plowing Matches.

AN ALASKAN FARM LABOR SURVEY showed 830 workers during the July 10-16 survey week. Some 530 were farm operators and unpaid family members devoting 15 hours or more to farm work. The remaining 300 hired workers clocked an average of just over 28 hours during the week versus nearly 40 for operators and family members—bringing in an average hourly rate of $4.86. Total field and livestock workers numbered 220 or nearly 75 percent of the state's hired farm labor force according to the first-time survey.

THE COOPERATIVE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM loaned farmers and their cooperatives more than $37 billion for the year ended June 30, 1977. This was up nearly 14 percent from a year ago, according to the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) which supervises the Cooperative Farm Credit System and its borrower-owned institutions. More than $40 billion in outstanding loans were on the books at year's end, up nearly 6 percent from June, 1976. FCA officials point to escalating farm land prices and costs of financing commodities held by marketing cooperatives as the reason for the increased loan volume.

A NEW MERCEDES-BENZ DIESEL hit a world record of 1,585 miles per gallon in a recent fuel economy competition sponsored by a German magazine and Shell Oil. The three-wheeled car propelled by an air-cooled, one-cylinder diesel engine of less than one horsepower was one of three built by teams of teen-age apprentices at Stuttgart, West Germany. The runner-up vehicle, a four-wheeler, reached "only" 1,470 miles per gallon. The winner and runner-up (at right) are pictured here.

From the Mailbag

Readers Report

Bonner Springs, Kansas

We would appreciate a set of FFA Aim and Purposes for our FFA display here at the Hall.

Please bill us for two sets.

Harold L. Adkins
Acting Director
Agricultural Hall of Fame
and National Center

Illustrated sets of FFA Aim and Purposes are available for $2.50 upon request.—Ed.

Hickman, Tennessee

Congratulations Future Farmers of America. Here is one parent's opinion.

Although the sun is setting on fifty years of service to youth, the FFA is already looking to new horizons and challenges for the future.

In agriculture and everything associated with it, there is an ever growing need for young people who are well trained, energetic and dedicated.

These young men do the job, rugged young men, they can work the dirt like champs or handle their livestock like pros.

No other youth organization has stood the test of time like the FFA. It was time and innovation that gave the FFA its real reputation.

Consider the golden opportunity of learning and earning. That is a sure way to success. And if you are interested in serving your country and yourself, you should take advantage of it now.

Today's FFA gives you time to get to know the most important person in your future. Yourself.

Joseph W. Mullins

Kalona, Iowa

You had an excellent 50th Anniversary issue. That center Anniverstary section was the best I've seen *The National FUTURE FARMER* do. And that's good.

Curtis Stutzman
Iowa State President

Mount Vernon, Washington

Just a quick note to say that the last edition of *The National FUTURE FARMER* is just great. Dad and Mom thought it one of the best they've seen.

Keep up the super work. Look forward to seeing you all at the convention.

Julie Smiley
National FFA Vice President

Spur, Texas

Enclosed is the survey that you sent to me recently. As you can see by my answers, I consider the magazine excellent.

I do offer one suggestion. I believe that the FFA members would enjoy articles written by the National Officers. Possibly a feature called "When National Officers Speak" or "National Officer's Pen."

Elvin Caraway
Texas State President

Statesboro, Georgia

I enjoy very much reading our magazine. But I feel that with all the areas of agriculture you cover in it you are leaving out one of the most important areas. That is our friends in the aviation area of agriculture.

There are many people who contribute to our nation's agriculture in the area. People such as my father (who was a member of the FFA in 1950-51) who are helping with the drought in Georgia by seeding clouds.

Also we have our crop dusters. These are guys who fly anywhere from three to eight feet from the ground putting out different pesticides, herbicides and insecticides. These people are risking their lives every time they get into their airplanes and just to help put food on our tables. So how about a little recognition, please.

Hank Tenney

We've been doing some background work on this subject . . . watch for a story within the coming year.—Ed.

Bismarck, North Dakota

Thought you might be interested in the way in which the state FFA sweetheart contributes to our program in North Dakota. We use the state sweetheart as sort of an auxiliary state officer. The girl who served as state sweetheart this past year, LuAnn Ackerman, was outstanding and before the year was over, probably knew more about the FFA than most of the young people who had grown up with it. LuAnn was a fine speaker. She told the FFA story to countless banquets, church youth groups and other gatherings throughout the state through the 12 months she served as state sweetheart. The year's experience had a great impact on LuAnn. She has changed her major from horticulture to agricultural education with horticulture as a second major. She plans to be a vocational agriculture/agribusiness teacher and an FFA advisor as a result of her contacts with the FFA.

Don Erickson
State FFA Advisor

Astoria, Oregon

I am a member of the Clatsop FFA Chapter. As one of my projects I have dairy goats. At our fair last week I took my dam and her two daughters. I got 5 blues, 3 champions, grand reserve champion and grand champion.

I was all set to go to our State Fair when my ag teacher called and said she'd received a letter saying there weren't enough entries. I was really disappointed.

So I would like to encourage more FFA members to get into dairy goats as a project. They are clean, intelligent animals and easy to handle. They are the easiest animals to show out of the animals I've shown which are cattle and hogs.

I plan to start a dairy and show goats.

Melissa Morrell

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The Western Horseman is the world's leading horse magazine and is read by more contestants, ranchers and pleasure riders than any other horse magazine. Get the latest word on training, competing in horse activities and vet-care information. "How-to" articles are included regularly along with handy hints that help all horsemen. Unlike a breed publication, WH has articles about Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, Arabs and other popular and distinguished breeds. The new "Young Rider" section is devoted to the 18-and-under age group to pinpoint achievements and report on the latest happenings among contemporaries.

20 Western Horseman books on training and horse care are also available. All are written by the best in their field and provide enjoyable reading and thorough coverage in all areas of horsemanship.

Make the magazine and/or books a part of the horse projects of your club and raise money at the same time . . . just fill in the form below and mail it to us. There's no obligation.

Please send me complete details on how our group can earn money while learning from The WH Magazine and Books.

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The Western Horseman

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News in Brief

The FFA

THE NEW HISTORY BOOK of FFA, *The FFA at 50,* is now available. The 191-page book is a tracking of our organization from its beginning through its first 50 years. It's full of current and historical photographs to assist in illustrating the impact the FFA has had on agriculture and the many young men and women in it. *The FFA at 50* is available from the FFA Supply Service in soft or hard covers.

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING the Future Farmers of America was passed on November 3, 1977 by the U.S. Senate. The commendation of the FFA was ". . . for the contributions it has made in sustaining our nation's most basic industry of agriculture through developing leadership, encouraging cooperation, promoting good citizenship, teaching sound agricultural techniques and principles and preparing our nation's young men and women for careers in the industry of agriculture." It was submitted to the Senate by Senator John Tower (R-Texas) and presented on the floor by Senator Walter Huddleston (D-Kentucky).

A COMMITTEE TO STUDY the feasibility of organizing an organization for vocational agriculture students in post-high school institutions such as community colleges met for the first time in October. Howard Sidney, dean of Agricultural and Technical Institute at Cobleskill, New York, is heading up a group of representatives of post-high school institutions across the nation. It is being funded by White Farm Equipment as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Ground work is currently being laid for a National Seminar in Kansas City, Missouri, next spring involving student representatives and instructors from post-high school institutions.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR the new new FFA television public service announcements that have been developed for use in 1978. The new spots were presented for the first time at the National FFA Convention. Each state association is now being provided with a number of copies for distribution to TV stations before National FFA WEEK, February 18-25.

EMPHASIS '78 IS a series of workshops conducted by the national staff which will be held in March and April, 1978. The purpose is to introduce new, revised and updated materials to be used with vocational agriculture and the FFA for the next three-year period. (Thrust '75 was the name given these special in-depth meetings held in the spring of 1975.)

THE SIX NEW NATIONAL officers will begin their duties promptly with an orientation period at the National FFA Center in Alexandria, Virginia, the second week of December. Ken, Howard, Chris, Dee, Peg and Rob will have the opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of the National FFA Organization, its operating policies and procedures. A visit to the U.S. Office of Education will provide an update on the trends and current concepts in vocational agriculture education, and much preparation will be made for the presentation of leadership programs at camps and conferences. They will also have time to prepare for their first board meeting coming up in January. All of the work is directed toward helping them help others get the most out of the FFA. See page 12 for more about your new officers.

Pay & Benefits
If you enlist in the Army, you'll start with good pay; a long list of skill-training courses to choose from; 30 days paid vacation each year; the opportunities to travel and to continue your education. For more information about all the opportunities in today's Army, send the postcard. Or call 800-43
In NY call
Growing.

"I went into the Army with the attitude that I would be a soldier. But just because I said it, didn't make me one. I had to grow into that. The whole thing has been a growing experience. The Army put me in shape, which I hadn't been. It exposed me to all kinds of people, when I had known only people who were pretty much like me. I had some tremendous guidance from my superiors, and I wanted to try and be like them. And now, in a squad leader position, I have responsibility for people, something I never had before. And that's not as frightening as I thought it would be."

CPL David Shaul, Ft. Riley, Kansas

Join the people who've joined the Army.

A new kind of power you can feel... not just measure at the PTO

The power in the NEW IRON HORSE Tractors is very real, very noticeable, and very usable. You won't have to put your new tractor on a dynamometer to tell a difference. Just drive it.

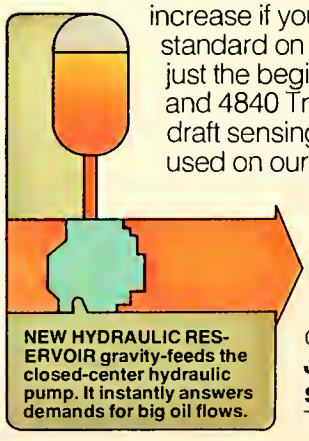
Pulling power at the drawbar and 3-point hitch are the first places you'll experience this new kind of power. And for good reason—pulling power is where these new tractors really stand out. Why? Well, you've already noticed the new horsepower ratings, but by reading further in this ad you'll find a whole raft of major engine and chassis changes, all intended to magnify even modest horsepower increases. That's a most important point because OUR POWER INCREASES DO NOT COME FROM MERELY TURNING UP THE FUEL PUMP AND OVERFUELING A PREVIOUS TRACTOR MODEL. Instead, we're offering totally new tractors with a completely different design. They may look a lot like our previous line, but they pull a lot stronger. Chances are you use your tractor for draft loads more than anything else, so more pulling power will help you most. Hook onto a big disk and you'll see what we mean.

Torque reserve soars in the new tractors, especially turbocharged models. We call your attention to it because you may call it amazing. It's similar to the torque reserve built into our 4-wheel-drive tractors. You really feel it in the field when you plow into a tough spot or start up a rise. It's also a big help when you want to get a heavy load rolling again.

New 90-HP* 4040 | **New 110-HP* 4240** | **New 130-HP* 4440** | **New 155-HP* 4640** | **New 180-HP* 4840**

New engine sizes appear in every model. Here's convincing evidence that our power is all new. As you can see in the accompanying chart, every engine is new to the power size. All are John Deere-built 6-cylinder diesels designed for long-term, dependable performance. *All engines are rated at 2200 rpm,* a moderate speed that provides a wide operating range without exacting a long-term durability penalty.

More usable hydraulic power. A new reservoir, immediately adjacent to the closed-center hydraulic pump, has been added to all five tractors (see drawing). In addition, the transmission charge pump (the usual method of delivering oil to the hydraulic pump) is 17 percent larger in displacement. The net result is more usable hydraulic power when you need it most—working a loader or implement that uses big, single-acting cylinders that require a tremendous volume of oil.

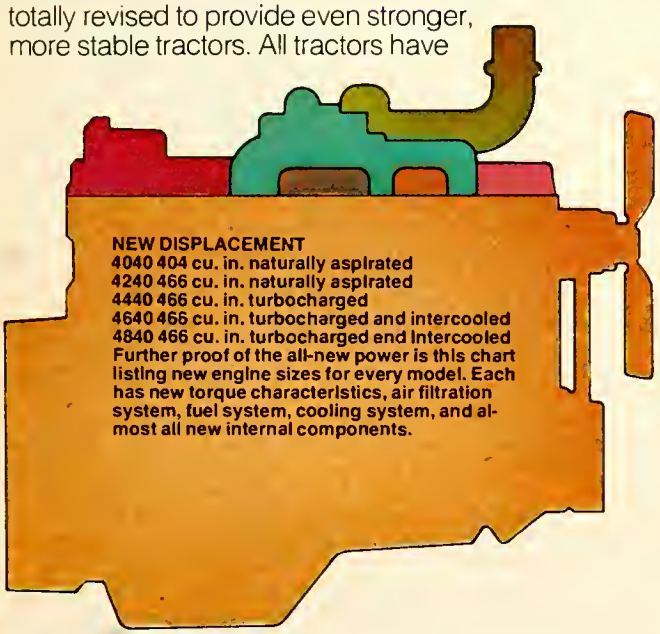


NEW HYDRAULIC RESERVOIR gravity-feeds the closed-center hydraulic pump. It instantly answers demands for big oil flows.

Hitch lift is greatly increased. New rockshaft designs with stronger components and revised valving and circuitry really boost 3-point-hitch lifting power (see chart). And new chassis designs with longer wheelbases and more weight let you take full advantage of it. Optional external lift-assist cylinders on the three smaller models provide a phenomenal lift increase if you need it (external cylinders standard on 4640 and 4840). But that's just the beginning of the story. 4640 and 4840 Tractors boast hydraulic draft sensing similar to the system used on our 4-wheel-drive tractors. And all tractors have infinitely variable load control sensing. There's no doubt about it, THE NEW IRON HORSES really deliver at the 3-point hitch.

Just as important: extra strength throughout. Tractor design has been

totally revised to provide even stronger, more stable tractors. All tractors have

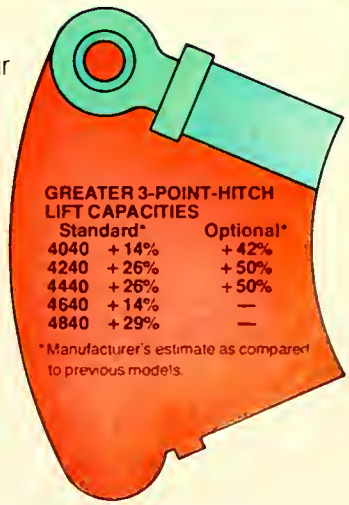


NEW DISPLACEMENT
4040 404 cu. in. naturally aspirated
4240 466 cu. in. naturally aspirated
4440 466 cu. in. turbocharged
4640 466 cu. in. turbocharged and intercooled
4840 466 cu. in. turbocharged and intercooled
Further proof of the all-new power is this chart listing new engine sizes for every model. Each has new torque characteristics, air filtration system, fuel system, cooling system, and almost all new internal components.

more iron in the most literal sense—they weigh more. And all have been designed to work with more added ballast. Almost all of them have a longer wheelbase, too. More weight and a longer wheelbase are good examples of how John Deere makes power increases more usable. The story is the same from stem to stern (or from larger fuel tanks to heavier drawbars).

A new warranty wraps it all up. See your dealer for details on a new warranty that's as impressive as THE NEW IRON HORSES... the tractors with more horses and more iron.

*Maximum horsepower measured at the PTO at 2200 engine rpm (factory observed).



GREATER 3-POINT-HITCH LIFT CAPACITIES

	Standard*	Optional*
4040	+14%	+42%
4240	+26%	+50%
4440	+26%	+50%
4640	+14%	—
4840	+29%	—

*Manufacturer's estimate as compared to previous models.

THE NEW IRON HORSES

MORE HORSES MORE IRON

John Deere design, dependability, and dealers make the difference

Your New National Officers

The team for '77-'78: from the left in front, Howard Morrison, Arizona, National Secretary; Ken Johnson, Texas, National President. In back from the left are the Vice Presidents, Peg Armstrong, Iowa, Central Region; Rob Hovis, Ohio, Eastern Region; Dee Sokolosky, Oklahoma, Western Region; and Chris Hardee, Florida, Southern Region.

FIVE young men and one young lady were elected to serve one year terms representing 510,000 members of the Future Farmers of America for 1977-78. They bring exciting backgrounds in FFA, school and family life to their new positions.

National FFA President

Ken Johnson, a 19-year-old cattle rancher from Nacogdoches, Texas, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Johnson.

Ken's leadership experience includes vice president of his chapter and last year as president of the Texas Association.

Ken was high school student body president and earned Rotary and Optimist youth awards. He is a member of the honor society and has served as president of his church youth council.

As a student under vocational agriculture instructor Larry Poe, Ken started his first year with eight head of beef and dairy cattle and expanded into a herd of registered Charolais. Later he added a pork production enterprise and has become skilled in livestock breeding, feeding and marketing.

At the time of his election Ken was a student at Texas A & M majoring in agricultural economics.

National Secretary

Howard Morrison, 19, from Gilbert, Arizona, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Morrison. He served as president of the Arizona Association in 1975-76 and won the state FFA public speaking contest there in 1975.

Howard began his supervised experience program in agribusiness working on the family farm during the summer and his production enterprises include fattening steers, and cotton. Howard was named State Star Greenhand in 1973.

A member of the honor society, student council, band and three sports teams, Howard graduated with honors. He has been involved with his church youth fellowship and has sung in a gospel singing group.

Prior to his election, Howard attended the University of Arizona studying agricultural business with a goal of managing his own farm. His FFA advisors and vo-ag teachers were Gareth Cobb, Joe Granio and Clifford Kinney.

Central Region Vice President

Peg Armstrong, 19, of Newhall, Iowa, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Berchman Armstrong and a member of the North Winneshiek Chapter.

Under FFA Advisors Frank Hill, Doug Corson and Rick Twedt, Peg began developing a dairy, beef, swine and crop program on the 216-acre family farm. In 1976 she began her agribusiness program as a field representative for a cooperative oil company and learned skills in marketing, accounting and management. She was also employed this fall at the Ellsworth-Williams Farmers Co-op learning skills in grain handling.

In FFA Peg served as reporter, then as president of the Iowa Association. In high school, she participated in speech, drama, honor society, basketball and track.

Peg is a student at Iowa State University majoring in animal science.

Eastern Region Vice President

Rob Hovis, 20, from Helena, Ohio, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hovis and a member of Lakota FFA where his advisor was Keith Nowels.

Rob started his vo-ag program with four brood sows and seven feeder animals, enlarging it with 12 acres of field crops the following year. With limited opportunity for expansion on his home farm, Rob directed his efforts toward agribusiness and became affiliated with a farmers grain corporation advancing to a position assisting in public relations.

In his local FFA chapter, Rob served as secretary, vice president and president, then advanced to the position of vice president and later president of the Ohio Association. He served two appointments by Governor Rhodes.

Now a student at The Ohio State University, Rob is pursuing a dual major in agricultural education and agricultural economics.

Southern Region Vice President

Chris Hardee, a 20-year-old Angus producer from Chiefland, Florida, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hardee. Chris served as president of the Florida Association and was State Star Greenhand. He was also runner-up in the state public speaking contest in 1975.

Chris currently owns 17 beef cattle with his sister. This involvement earned him the state beef production award. His FFA advisors at Chiefland are Eli Beasley and Dan Faircloth, Jr.

In high school he was student body president, a football letterman and valedictorian of his class. He also is a member of his church and the American Angus Association.

At Auburn University in Alabama, Chris has completed his freshman year in animal science. As a college student he served on the agriculture council, participated in the Block and Bridle Club, judged on the meats team and rode with the Auburn Rodeo team.

Western Region Vice President

Dee Sokolosky, 20, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Sokolosky and the brother of Noble, Ann and Sue, of rural Owasso, Oklahoma.

Dee served the Oklahoma Association as secretary and president. He was also a state winner in public speaking in 1975 and won state proficiency recognition in outdoor recreation and in home improvement. In addition he was a member of the state winning farm management team.

Today Dee owns over forty head of registered Polled Herefords, Angus and Limousin with future plans to continue his beef operation while practicing law in the agribusiness field.

A junior at Oklahoma State University, he was selected as one of the Top Ten Freshmen men on campus. He is a church and Chamber of Commerce member in Owasso and a lifetime FFA Alumni member.

His advisor and vocational agriculture instructor is Richard Melot.

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You Ain't Gonna Make It, Boy!

By K. Elliott Nowels

Photo by Author

CHUP—shwah . . . chup—shwah . . . chup—shwah . . .

The automatic milkers pulsated with the sound and the white liquid flowed through the pipe and appeared in the glass holding jug at the other end of the parlor.

"Yeh, when I got out of high school, my mom and dad didn't want me to farm," said Sam Adams, as he worked the four cows on one side of the herringbone set-up. "In fact, they wanted me to do anything but farm."

Chup—shwah . . . chup—shwah . . . chup—shwah . . . glunggg . . . The milk disappeared into more stainless steel pipes as the holding tank emptied, sending the milk through the wall to the bulk tank waiting on the other side.

"You know back then I used to bake cakes and pies and stuff once in a while, just for the fun of it. So my mom and dad tried to talk me into going to bakery school after graduation. I love the outdoors too much . . . I couldn't do anything like that for very long."

Sam is now a 27-year-old Loudonville, Ohio, dairy farmer with a bull-like build, a respect for the land and a gentle way with his animals. And it's

Sam poses in his milk parlor—a system he helped to design and build.

hard to imagine him peeking expectantly into an oven with apron in hand. He's a farm mechanic termed excellent by those who are familiar with his work and a herdsman skillful in artificial insemination. Farming is his way of life now, but as the conversation in the parlor indicates, it hasn't always been that way.

"My mind was on farmin' . . . when the last bell rang I was out . . . to somebody's farm . . ."

You see, during some of Sam's formative years he was what many of his rural friends called a "town kid." At the age of 12 his family had found it necessary to move from their farm and into town. Even at that time Sam let it be known that he still wanted to farm some day and he continued to prepare for it.

"In high school I took vo-ag and joined FFA. I didn't have any place to raise anything in town, so I raised strawberries and potatoes on my uncle's farm. I wanted to learn all I could," he said.

His senior year he got a job at a local cooperative elevator working half-days. There was much more to learn about feed rations and management. He admits to another reason for taking the job.

"It was also a good way to get out of a couple of classes, I guess. I felt out of place in school—closed in behind doors. I know I wasn't the brightest kid in school, but I sure wasn't the dumbest, either. But I just tried hard enough to pass. Now I wish I would've tried a little harder. My interest in FFA and vo-ag helped me get through it, though," he said. "My mind was on farmin'. At 3:30 each day when the last bell rang I was out the door and out to somebody's farm helpin' them do their milkin' and other work."

For many young people of less commitment and ambition, moving to town at a young age would have ended the hope of owning a farm. They might have then taken a more typical direction—and ended up working for the highway department, or putting bumpers on buses. But not Sam, he still believed in himself. He needed to because many others didn't.

None of the local establishments were interested in him. After all, they would say, you're only 18 and single, you're not going to stick with it. Sam's family and friends were skeptical also. This seemed like an awful long limb to start crawling around on and his father couldn't co-sign for him, as he was already financially committed on another project. The phrase "you ain't gonna' make it, boy" became a familiar one to Sam. Almost everyone tried to talk him out of it. And you can't blame them. Farming is tough enough for the veterans, let alone the rookies with no logical starting point.

Sam found his greatest support, moral and otherwise, in the form of his grandfather Mutchler, who eventually co-signed the note. On June 27, 1969, Sam signed a land contract for an 156-acre farm—on his nineteenth birthday. He's been farming that land ever since. Often, it hasn't been easy.

Additional hurdles seemed to fall into his financial path. He only had one tractor and 20 cows to start with, so he needed more money for cattle and machinery. After more hassling with the banks, he was able to obtain $20,000. In the succeeding years other circumstances forced him close to throwing in the proverbial towel. Problems arising from the original owner's desire to get the land back; arthritis in his hands caused by the coldness of the old stanchion milking set-up. He'd have to switch to a different set-up or get out of the dairy business. Sam negotiated each of the problems, perhaps not simply "taking them in stride" but nevertheless, successfully.

"When I turned 21, I decided to borrow money to pay the land contract off," he said. It seemed to be the same old "but you're only 21 and not even married, with no money down, you're not going to stick with it" tune again. "I went through about eight months of fightin' with people to try to get the money borrowed from the different banks," he looks back.

"I went through about eight months of fightin' . . . to get the money borrowed . . ."

"All I really need is a bale of straw to sleep on and maybe somethin' to cook with . . ."

Sam didn't settle for those first answers as final ones and six months after several letters to the state capital and people higher up the Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) ladder, an FmHA loan was granted.

"I just got right down to it and told them how I felt about farming and about young farmers startin' out and everything and how they were knockin' it," he explained. "I probably wouldn't have gotten the loan except for the fact that I had been in farmin' for three years and had my foot in the door. Plus the fact that, well, maybe I'm just bullheaded . . . I wouldn't give up."

He now says all that "rigamarole" has been worth it. "When I started out they told me that the first five years would be the roughest, and they were, but now debt load compared to my net worth is about what it should be. I feel that within the next one or two years I'll be sittin' on top of it even a little better."

Maple Lawn Farm: a humble beginning, but heading toward prosperity.

Sam says that some of the subjects he studied in high school vo-ag under instructor Jack Nowels seemed a little drawn out at the time. Since then, he's changed his mind.

"Jack said it took good management of three things to make a farm work out—land, labor and capital. Back then we all kind of thought that was dumb, but you find out that it isn't anything to laugh at."

Sam presently tries to keep his milking number at around 60 head. His goals currently include getting his herd average back up near 16,000 pounds and improving his one-man set-up labor

(Continued on Page 53)

This is one committee that always has plenty of volunteers. The information they gather is very important to agriculture in the area and they get to ride through some beautiful country while doing the work.

Community Service For the Fun of It

This chapter project provides a worthwhile service but is more fun than work.

IS THERE anything wrong with having a good time while doing your community a service? Not in the opinion of the Tooele, Utah, FFA chapter. They have been doing just that for the last five years.

In cooperation with the state's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and local conservation districts, chapter members take monthly snow and water surveys. The surveys are used by the SCS, local irrigation companies and the general public to make water-use predictions and to take flood control precautions if necessary.

The fun comes in when the survey committee makes the readings. To reach each of four sites, members usually must depend on snowmobiles, horses or four-wheel drive pickups.

"This committee has plenty of volunteers," says committee chairman and State FFA Secretary Mark McKendrick. On a normal weekend excursion the

group will include from five to ten members, accompanied by FFA Advisor Leland Beckstrom.

Beckstrom says taking the snow and water surveys is a fairly routine task that takes some particular skills. Officials of the SCS first instructed the members on the correct procedures to use five years ago. Now an annual review is only held for the new committee members to insure correct readings.

Members of the committee first take a rain gauge reading to determine the monthly rain or snowfall. The water or snow is then weighed and finally the measuring device is recharged with oil, anti-freeze and water in preparation for the next month's precipitation. When snow has accumulated, a core sample is taken in inches, to determine snow depth. When this core is compared to the weight of the sample, the percentage of water in this snow can be determined by using a snow chart.

When the crew has returned from the stations, a report is made out and given to Soil Conservation Service officials. That report is verified and printed in the county newspapers for use by the area's citizens.

District Soil Conservation Service engineer technician Don Rosenberg says that because of the western drought this year, snow and water measurements are extremely important, as a way for farmers to plan their crops, and for irrigation companies to determine how much water will be made available for use in upcoming months.

As a result of the survey information this year, the Settlement Canyon Irrigation Company is pumping two wells to help fill their already sagging reservoir. In years of excess moisture the reservoir can be drained to eliminate excess runoff and flooding.

This year, to facilitate the information gathering service the FFA provides, the state SCS turned over to the chapter two of their used snowmobiles for members to use. "The two machines give members a chance to join the committee who don't have their own snow machines," says Mark McKendrick.

The chapter must store the machines and provide any necessary maintenance to them. The SCS also annually provides $300 to help the chapter meet some of their expenses involved with the project. The funds come as part of a written agreement signed each year by both cooperating parties. The agreement describes the responsibilities of both the FFA and the SCS.

The survey project is one of many that the chapter undertakes in the field of soil and water conservation. Organized into a Junior Soil Conservation Board, FFA members meet regularly with the Soil Conservation Districts to learn about the function of the SCS.

As their 1976-1977 BOAC project, the chapter combined the survey activities with the reclamation of 165 acres of land which had for years been a dust bowl. Working with the SCS as well as local mining and irrigation companies, the students planted over 6,000 shrubs and trees and seeded five acres of grass. The project's goal was to provide wildlife habitat and livestock grazing.

At the state FFA convention in March, the Tooele Chapter's efforts were awarded with the first place BOAC award.

In addition to their hands-on activities, the chapter also promotes soil and water conservation through formal presentations to concerned groups. During National Soil Stewardship Week, FFA members gave six talks to various groups. To make the week official, members posed for an official proclamation signing with Tooele's Mayor Douglas Sager, a former FFA member. Also each year at the Utah State Fair, Tooele FFA members are in charge of the Soil Conservation Service's booth and display.

As a result of their involvement with soil and water conservation, Tooele's FFA Advisor Leland Beckstrom was named 1976 recipient of the state's Teacher of the Year Award for Conservation and Environmental Education. "It was really an award for the whole chapter," says Beckstrom. "The members do all the work on these projects."

And, of course, they have some of the fun too.

A core sample is recorded for use by the Soil Conservation Service.

Cleaning out the recording instrument is important. Then it is set up for the next month's reading.

Members Bob Gowens and Mike McCoy discuss survey results with SCS engineer-technician Don Rosenberg.

THE SUPER MARKET

AMERICA'S MOST MISUNDERSTOOD GREAT INVENTION.

The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker. The grocer, the dairy, the canner, et al. What if they all delivered their wares to a central warehouse which in turn parcelled them out to neighborhood stores?

What if these stores stacked virtually everything the shopper needs on neat open shelves so customers could easily help themselves? In wide varieties, so customers could choose for themselves?

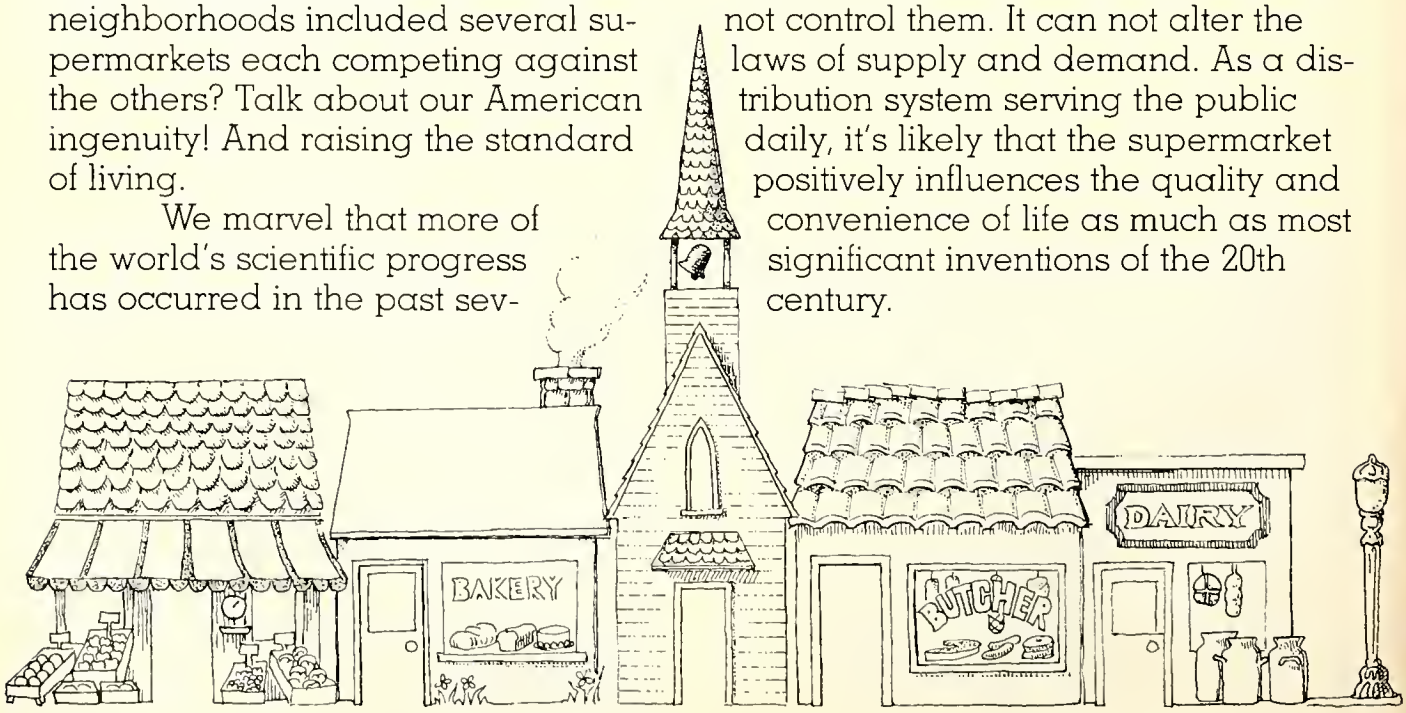
Can you imagine the savings in distribution costs and labor? On merchandise that moves too fast to spoil? Can you calculate the downward pressure of such a market on retail prices?

What if the idea worked so well that supermarkets proliferated and neighborhoods included several supermarkets each competing against the others? Talk about our American ingenuity! And raising the standard of living.

We marvel that more of the world's scientific progress has occurred in the past seventy-five years than in all previous history. We recite lists of inventions, discoveries and achievements. And often we forget the supermarket. Think of it. Which would you miss more, your dishwasher or your supermarket?

Yet the supermarket is frequently blamed for everything from high prices to low quality. But it's a fact that the supermarket industry's distribution efficiency and unceasing competitiveness do more to keep grocery prices in check than almost any other factor in our economy. And quality in American supermarkets is as high as you can find anywhere.

The supermarket is pure and simple a remarkable distribution system. It can influence prices but it cannot control them. It can not alter the laws of supply and demand. As a distribution system serving the public daily, it's likely that the supermarket positively influences the quality and convenience of life as much as most significant inventions of the 20th century.



INTRODUCING FOOD MARKETING INSTITUTE.

One reason the supermarket is misunderstood is that growth has been so dynamic and the industry so busy buying, warehousing and distributing food and groceries that it has not taken enough time to communicate its functions and objectives to the public.

However, the industry recognizes that with growth comes added responsibility in service and information. This is why Food Marketing Institute was formed. This new organization will place special emphasis on research, education and public affairs. It will make available to all interested parties helpful information about the supermarket industry and the way it works.

Informative background briefings such as the following are available on request:

Food Marketing Outlook, 1977: A Look at Prices, Profits and Issues in Food Distribution. A comprehensive examination of the cost components of retail prices, including a detailed explanation of the dollar difference between what the feeder receives for his livestock and what the consumer pays for meat in the neighborhood supermarket.

How It Works. An explanation of the difference between the wholesale cost of food and prices supermarkets charge. Includes an analysis of how supermarkets determine final shelf prices and of the services supermarkets provide the public.

Competition in the Supermarket Industry. An original research study of the realities of competition in major metropolitan areas. Measures supermarkets against eight established criteria of competitiveness.

The Food Marketing Institute welcomes inquiries from journalists, broadcasters, educators, students, organizations and individuals. To secure these briefings and any other information you may wish, please call or write:

Victor R. Hirsh, Director of Public Information
Food Marketing Institute, 1750 K Street N.W.
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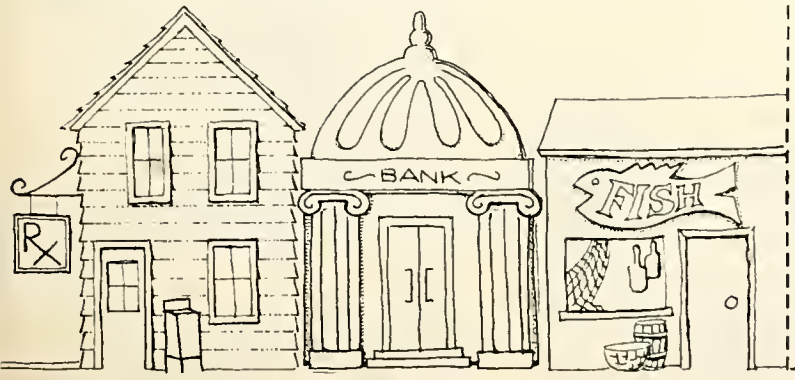

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Fourth in a series of articles about the history of FFA.

FFA Becomes a Landowner

By Wilson Carnes

IN 1939, the National FFA Organization purchased 28½ acres of land once part of George Washington's estate and established a national FFA camp. As a camp, it turned out to be a failure so delegates to the National Convention voted to give the Board of Trustees authorization to dispose of the camp.

The sale was never completed. The property that was once considered to be a white elephant became FFA's best financial investment and provided the organization with a site for its national headquarters now called the National FFA Center.

The purchase of the property was an outgrowth of the desire to have a national leadership training school for FFA members. The idea was discussed as early as 1934 with some wanting the school to be a part of the national convention; others wanted a separate time and place.

The first step was taken in 1937 when convention delegates adopted a motion designating the Board of Trustees as a committee to determine the advisability of establishing a national FFA camp and leadership training school in Washington, D.C. area.

A good camp site was not located during the next year, but the plan of developing such a camp was approved. The 1938 convention delegates voted to set aside $6,000 to start the camp.

At the 1939 convention Executive Secretary W. A. Ross reported that 22½ acres of land that once belonged to George Washington had been purchased. The site was three miles west of Mount Vernon near Alexandria, Virginia. A down payment of $5,000 had been made on the $8,500 purchase price. Ross reported that an additional six acres of land adjoining the property could be had for $3,500 more, and that one of Washington's old grist mills had been restored by the Virginia Conservation Commission on property to the south of the camp.

The delegates voted $12,000 to finish paying for the land, including the additional six acres and to start with improvement work. An agreement was reached with the state of Virginia for FFA to maintain and operate the George Washington grist mill as a tourist attraction. The 1940 convention delegates voted another $10,000 for the continued development.

An architect's drawing of the main building at the National FFA Center.

Rising costs forced a scaling-down of the original plans so that only one barracks building with space for 76 persons and a dining hall could be built with available funds. On May 30, 1941, a group of FFA members from Wilton, Wisconsin, were the first to make use of the camp facilities. During the remainder of the summer 483 members from 49 chapters in 17 states used the camp as a place to stay while they toured in the Washington vicinity.

The outbreak of World War II in the fall of 1941 left the FFA with a good-sized white elephant on its hands. Both the camp and the grist mill were closed until the summer of 1946. After the war, there never were enough members using the facilities of the national camp to make it worth the cost. Delegates to the 1949 national convention voted to dispose of the camp.

In 1948, the National FFA Supply Service had been located in one of the camp buildings. By the spring of 1950 the business had expanded to the point that all the camp buildings were required for office space and storage. The camp was closed for housing FFA tourists, but it was providing year-around service as headquarters for the Supply Service. In 1952, *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine offices were also established at the camp.

The magazine and Supply Service soon outgrew the old camp buildings and the need for better and more permanent facilities became apparent. The Board of Directors and National Officers took the necessary action including the purchase of land that is now the front lawn of the main FFA building.

Ground was broken for the new building on July 24, 1956. The building was completed in the fall of 1957 and the magazine and Supply Service moved in just prior to the national convention. Dedication of the building was delayed until July 24, 1959, because Dr. W. T. Spanton, then National FFA Advisor, insisted that the building be paid for before it was dedicated. He took great pride in the fact that the building was "paid for by the members" and was not a gift of some major corporation or foundation. Most of the money came from Supply Service sales.

About this time, after considerable discussion, the FFA decided to ask the state of Virginia to again assume responsibility for operating Washington's old grist mill so this property was turned back to the state. The mill had never been a profitable operation from a financial standpoint.

It wasn't long before the growth of the Supply Service created the need for more storage and production. This was provided in 1962 with the completion of a warehouse addition to the original building. Another addition was completed in 1977 providing much storage space for merchandise and other materials.

In 1977, FFA purchased an additional 2.7 acres of land adjoining the FFA property and Washington's old mill. It was considered a good investment and helps protect the privacy and beauty of the present FFA property.

Today the National FFA Center contains just over 38 acres and provides a home for the FFA magazine, Supply Service, Alumni and the Program Division. In addition, it hosts for a day over 1,000 FFA members attending the leadership conferences each summer and other groups who visit from time to time. In addition to being a service facility, the Center provides each FFA member with the opportunity to say with pride, "that's our place."

The National FFA Camp as it appeared in the early 1950's.

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NAVY. IT'S NOT JUST A JOB, IT'S AN ADVENTURE.

The Anniversary Convention

The Biggest, The Brightest, The Best

FFA has always been teamwork and this officer team had it.

FFA members from across the nation met in Kansas City, Missouri, November 8-11, to participate in the organization's 50th Anniversary Convention and to join in the kickoff celebration for the organization's yearlong golden anniversary celebration. More than 22,000 FFA members, advisors, parents and guests filled hotels within a 40-mile radius of Kansas City. Closed circuit television was installed to handle the overflow crowds in the Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium.

National FFA President James Bode of Geary, Oklahoma, officially called the convention to order on Wednesday morning. Members of the National FFA Band and Chorus joined in an audio-visual presentation on the FFA theme, "FFA—A Golden Past—A Brighter Future," which set the stage for the three days of convention activities. Keynoting the opening session Coach W. W. "Woody" Hayes gave the audience his views of discipline and motivation, saying, "First, you have to get their attention, then show them immediate improvement."

At left, new National FFA Executive Secretary, Coleman Harris, at the hub of convention excitement.

The 50th Anniversary medallion designed by FFA member Patti Yanz of Washington was unveiled during the session, and convention participants were welcomed to Kansas City by Mayor Charles Wheeler. The 51 associations were also officially recognized in order of their charters in the national organization.

Keynoting the Wednesday afternoon session was Grady Nutt, the "Prime Minister of Humor" from Louisville, Kentucky. Illustrating his talk with many humorous stories, Nutt challenged FFA members to meet their job "head-on." He said that he was aware it was

Interest runs high among FFA'ers everywhere in public speaking contests. Dee James took it all.

not an easy task, and urged that they strive to do their best at whatever agricultural career they chose to pursue.

The afternoon session included the presentation of some of the over 2,500 awards presented at the convention. National Chapter Safety Awards recognizing chapters for participation in safety projects in their local community were presented to 106 FFA chapters. The sponsors are Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute (FIEI) and Dow Chemical U.S.A.

Always a highlight of the convention, Wednesday evening's National Public Speaking Contest drew a capacity crowd to the auditorium to hear 18-year-old Dee James of Clay Center, Kansas, deliver his winning speech, "Agriculture's New Generation." Competing against three other regional finalists, James emphasized the importance of vocational agriculture and FFA programs in our society today. "I firmly believe in the role of the Future Farmers of America," he said, noting that vocational agriculture training helps supply the manpower and leadership that "will stand solid for our part in that inspiring task."

During the evening session, six dedicated leaders received the FFA's VIP Citation for their many years of continuous service to the National FFA Organization. Charles Dana Bennett, Harold Garver, Wm. Paul Gray, Ralph Howard, Clifton B. Jeter and George Shepherd were presented citations. In another presentation Distinguished Service Citations for many years of service to FFA and vocational agriculture were awarded to the Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Production Credit Associations of the United States and Venard Films.

In a highlight of the evening's program, convention partcipants witnessed the premiere showing of a new FFA history film "Learning and the Land—50 Years of FFA," sponsored by Firestone. Twenty-nine charter FFA members, who joined FFA between 1928 and 1930, were introduced to the convention audience. They were brought to the convention by the FFA Alumni Association, which hosted them at a breakfast in their honor on Thursday morning.

Thursday morning's program featured presentation of regional and national FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards for outstanding achievement in 19 areas of production agriculture and agribusiness. Panels of judges representing education, business, and industry selected the national winners listed on page 26 of this issue.

At the Thursday morning session, participants saw the National Citation, the highest award in the FFA community development program, Building Our American Communities (BOAC), presented to the North Fayette County FFA Chapter of West Union, Iowa. The 136-member FFA chapter developed a highly successful all-purpose community building for the county fairgrounds. The award was signed and presented by Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, who served as Chairman of the National BOAC Selection Committee. BOAC awards are sponsored by Lilly Endowment, Inc., of Indianapolis, Indiana.

At the afternoon session, FFA members listened as Ray Wilkinson, Capitol Broadcasting Company's farm relations director of Raleigh, North Carolina, combined humor with a serious message about the future of American agriculture.

Honorary American Farmer Degrees were conferred on 191 men and women who have served and supported the FFA. The American Farmer Degree, highest degree of membership in the FFA, was presented to 801 FFA members this year. It was the largest number of FFA members ever to receive the degree. From this select group, judges named Dwight Buller, a 22-year-old crop farmer from Hendricks, Minnesota, Star Farmer of America, and another Minnesotan Michael Deming, 21, a materials handling equipment dealer from Owatonna, Star Agribusinessman of America. The Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of America awards are recognized as the nation's top awards for young men and women becoming established in farming and agribusiness careers. The awards were presented by the National FFA Foundation, Inc., following the premiere showing of the CIBA-GEIGY Corporation sponsored "Stars Over America" film documenting the achievements of the eight regional stars.

FFA FOUNDATION

National FFA Foundation sponsors were also recognized for their support in 1977. The 1977 Sponsoring Committee Chairman, David A. Phillipson, DVM, vice president and general manager of the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan, announced that 1977 was a record year for the Foundation which provided nearly $900,000 for FFA incentive award programs. Clarke A. Nelson, group vice president, Carnation Company, Los Angeles, California, was introduced as the 1978 Sponsoring Committee Chairman. Expressing appreciation to Dr. Phillipson for outstanding leadership in promoting the National FFA Foundation, Nel-

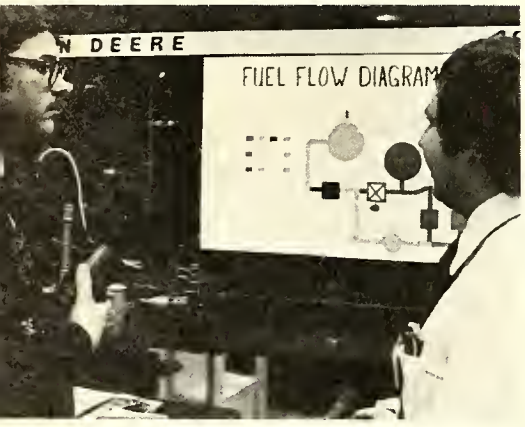
(Continued on Page 24)

Individuals make up the FFA and their single successes are honored.

A gala event to kick off the celebration of the FFA Anniversary year marked by the unveiling of the new FFA AT 50 Flag.

FFA members strive to be proficient in 19 agricultural areas. Our FFA Foundation honors those who succeed.

FFA talent teams played and entertained during convention sessions and at other events during the week.



The future is bright and members studied opportunities for theirs at the FFA Ag Career Show.

FFA at 50

son made optimistic predictions for the 1978 Foundation campaign.

In other convention award presentations, the nation's 335 most active chapters were presented the National FFA Chapter Award recognizing participation in a well-rounded program of activities.

FFA ALUMNI

FFA members filled to capacity the four leadership workshops organized by the National FFA Alumni Association and held in conjunction with the FFA Convention. The workshops informed FFA members of the ways and means of becoming better leaders.

The National FFA Alumni Association held the opening session of its sixth annual meeting on Wednesday morning at the H. Roe Bartle Hall. Over 800 persons attended the 13,500-member Alumni Association's meeting which convened for two half-day sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented to three FFA Alumni members who have served agriculture and the FFA for many years. They were: Ralph E. Bender, chairman, department of agricultural education, Ohio State University; H. Neville Hunsicker, national FFA advisor, Alexandria, Virginia; A. Webster Tenney, former national FFA executive secretary and advisor, Sarasota, Florida. Legion of Merit Citations were presented to 147 individuals for active leadership in building the FFA Alumni Association. The Marysville, Ohio, FFA Alumni Affiliate was presented the second Outstanding Alumni Affiliate Award in recognition of the support Marysville FFA Alumni have given FFA and vocational agriculture in their community. In addition to the award presentations, Alumni members conducted business sessions, held committee meetings and elected new officers. The new FFA Alumni Chairman is Arthur R. Kurtz of Madison, Wisconsin.

CONTESTS

Eight national FFA contests were conducted in conjunction with the National Convention. The contests involving 1,000 FFA members on 312 three- and four-member teams are conducted as a practical test of skills and abilities learned in the vocational agriculture classroom. This year contests were held in eight instructional areas: livestock, poultry, dairy cattle, milk quality and dairy foods, agricultural mechanics, horticulture, meats and farm business management. Top teams in these events are listed on page 26 of this issue.

The contests are sponsored by individuals, businesses, industry and trade associations through the National FFA Foundation, Inc., which provides awards and travel funds. The contests are an annual event held in cooperation with the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show which provides the animals.

A new Queen of the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show was named Thursday evening from candidates submitted by State FFA Associations. She is Bonita Marie Sneesby of Lake Preston, South Dakota.

ENTERTAINMENT

Throughout the week FFA members were entertained by music provided by the 117-piece National FFA Band and 99-member National FFA Chorus. These musical units recruited by mail had never played or sung together before

Skills learned in vocational agriculture classrooms are then applied in the national FFA judging contests. The California team, below, won this year's livestock contest.

The National FFA Band fired up the enthusiasm of the record breaking 50th Anniversary Convention crowd of over 22,000 members, parents, sponsors and press.

arriving in Kansas City last Sunday. The National FFA Band also led the opening parade for the American Royal Livestock Show on Saturday.

In addition to the Agricultural Career Show, convention participants visiting the Exhibition Hall saw special FFA Association exhibits from 46 of the 50 states. A special exhibit of twelve oil paintings from FFA Calendars representing the purposes of FFA were on display. Artist Arthur Sarnoff was present to autograph reproductions and visit with members.

North Carolina Governor James Hunt delivered the keynote address at the Friday morning session. Recalling his strong ties to the Future Farmers of America as a State FFA President, Hunt told his audience that experiences in the FFA helped him develop the leadership skills that led to his successful political career. He challenged FFA members to participate in FFA leadership and career development activities and take advantage of opportunities to develop their own skills.

Six new National Officers were elected unanimously at the close of the Friday morning session (see page 12).

The program concluded with the recognition of the 1976-77 National Officers for their year of service to FFA. Parents and FFA advisors of the retiring officers were recognized and the six 1977-78 National Officers were installed in their new offices. Special entertainment by The Firestone Tire & Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio, followed the closing session of the 50th Nationál FFA Convention.

The dates for the Golden Anniversary wrap-up celebration convention will be November 7-10 in 1978. A special pageant was premiered at this convention featuring a new FFA at 50 flag which chapters will use in their year of celebration.

Charter members from 1928 were on hand to celebrate. Mr. L. W. Augenstine, national officer in '28 spoke and challenged members for 50 more years of success.

What They Said About the 50th

It was a big convention. It covered a lot of ground, area-wise as well as subject-wise, and people were talking about it everywhere.

Karen Finn of the Washington, Arizona, Chapter was singing her way through her first convention as a member of the National Chorus. "I've never been to a big convention," she said, "it's just spectacular. I've never seen this many people in one place in my life, and I didn't think everyone could be so friendly; it's kind of like a big happy family!"

Over in the adjoining convention building, the H. Roe Bartle, Craig Hansen from South Dakota was chatting with a friend. "If I wouldn't have been able to come to this 50th convention, I would've been real mad. My dad phoned the other day and called me a "lucky dog"—they've got two foot of snow back home."

As Hansen finished the sentence, W. John Wilson, one of several charter members present for the convention, stepped out of the Alumni proceedings next door for a breather in the hall. "I think this 50th is a real good convention," he began. "I

missed the one in 1928. You know it's been real good and quiet in that auditorium, too. . .there were no paper airplanes or anything during the public speaking contest."

At one of the honors breakfasts, Joan Harms from Canby, Oregon, who came to the convention for the talent contest, was playing her guitar for the group. "I just love to meet new people and this is a great place to do it," she said of the convention. "It's really neat to meet people that have the same interests and same goals."

"They've been real good," said the taxi driver on his way back to the Municipal Auditorium from the American Royal Show at Kemper Arena. "This is only my second day of being a cab driver and I'm probably getting a little easier break-in haulin' these kids." Four Kentucky FFA'ers cringed nervously as the cabby narrowly missed a telephone pole and a tractor-trailer rig. In between sharp corners, near misses, and yellow-red lights, the Kentuckians talked about how nice the 50th convention was. "I liked that slide presentation last night," said one. "The one that showed the FFA members visiting Hawaii and on that exchange trip with Russia." Another said he like some of the award ceremonies.

Now it was Friday night and Lynn,

the girl behind the desk in the Holiday Inn, was registering new guests as the blue jackets returned from the last session. "We had no problems with this group," she said. "It may have been a little hectic checkin' everyone in, but it was fun workin' with them." Just then the music being piped into the lobby faded and the radio announcer brought the news that Ken Johnson, a Texan, was the new National FFA President.

Over in the Hotel Muehlebach, Jamie Magee, state secretary from Louisiana, paused with a friend before going upstairs for a rest. She had just spent four days on the nom-

inating committee helping to select the new national officers. "We were in that room for 19 hours straight one day," she said, "we only broke for meals." She added that it wasn't as bad as it sounded. "The hardest thing about this convention is saying goodbye to all the friends you make."

Winners at the 50th National FFA Convention

National winners in bold type.

Name of Award	Central Region	Eastern Region	Southern Region	Western Region	Sponsor
Stars					
Star American Farmer	Dwight Buller Hendricks, Minnesota Hendricks FFA Chapter	Earl E. Hamilton Conneautville, Pennsylvania Conneaut Valley FFA	Ronald Jones Covington, Tennessee Covington FFA	Dirk N. Webb Elk City, Oklahoma Elk City FFA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Star Agribusinessman	Michael Lee Deming Owatonna, Minnesota Owatonna FFA Chapter	Brian Duffy Clyde, Ohio Clyde FFA Chapter	Anthony Thomason Eastanollee, Georgia Stephens County FFA	Gary D. Roberson Olympia, Washington Centralia FFA	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Public Speaking					
Public Speaking	Dee James Clay Center, Kansas	Jeff Rudd Yanceyville, N. Carolina	Jeff Miller Bronson, Florida	Phil Benson Winters, California	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Agricultural Proficiency Awards					
Agricultural Electrification	**Alan McCollough** Eagle Grove, Iowa Eagle Grove FFA	Jeff Schlichter Washington C.H., Ohio Miami Trace FFA	Greg Ricks Norman Park, Georgia Norman Park FFA	Randy Kellogg Guthrie, Oklahoma Guthrie FFA	Food & Energy Council, Inc.
Agricultural Mechanics	Allan C. Rieck Lake Preston, S. Dakota Lake Preston FFA	Galen D. Brubaker West Alexandria, Ohio Montgomery Co. JVS FFA	Edward Loftis Greenville, S. Carolina Greenville FFA Chapter	**David Brown** Stidham, Oklahoma Eufaula FFA Chapter	International Harvester
Agricultural Processing	**James J. Van Ess** Coloma, Wisconsin Green Bay East FFA	David I. Campbell Salem, New York Greenwich FFA	Geary McGregor Mascotte, Florida Groveland Sr. FFA	Faron D. Bryant Lexington, Oklahoma Noble FFA Chapter	Carnation Company
Agricultural Sales and/or Service	Scott Edward Kling Montevideo, Minnesota Montevideo FFA	Irma Henry Springfield, Ohio Northwestern-Clark FFA	**Randy Philman** Gainesville, Florida Gainesville Agbus. FFA	Dean W. Maw Ogden, Utah Weber FFA Chapter	Allis-Chalmers Corporation
Beef Production	Kent Muschinske Rice Lake, Wisconsin Rice Lake FFA Chapter	**Brad Moffitt** Urbana, Ohio A. B. Graham FFA	David L. Branscum Marshal, Arkansas Marshall FFA Chapter	Hank Gilbert Winona, Texas Chapel Hill FFA	NASCO and Sperry New Holland
Crop Production	Bruce D. Foster Niles,Michigan Niles #256 FFA	Michael Phillips Broadway, Virginia Broadway FFA Chapter	**Oran Lee Bond** Perkinston, Mississippi Stone FFA Chapter	John Reding Nampa, Ohio Nampa FFA Chapter	Producers of Funk's G-Hybrids
Dairy Production	Robert Nigh Viroqua, Wisconsin Viroqua FFA Chapter	**Charles King** Newark, Ohio Northridge FFA	Eddie Harris Cleveland, Tennessee Bradley Central FFA	Michael Silva Hilmar, California Hilmar FFA Chapter	Avco New Idea Farm Equipment and The DeLaval Separator Co.
Diversified Livestock Production	**Tim Rogers** Mapleton, Kansas Uniontown FFA	Pat Foley Kingwood, W. Virginia Kingwood FFA Chapter	Terry McMillin Falkner, Mississippi Falkner FFA Chapter	John R. Shetler Llano, California Palmdale FFA	Keystone Steel & Wire Division of Keystone Consolidated Industries, Inc. and A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc.
Fish and Wildlife Management	**Edmund Suchomel** Brownton, Minnesota Brownton FFA Chapter	Douglas Lee Dick Grove City, Pennsylvania Grove City FFA Chapter	Steve Kaney Farmer Wetumpka, Alabama Wetumpka FFA Chapter	Russell Henry Valley Farms, Arizona Coolidge FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Forest Management	**Glenn B. Stevenson** Gheen, Minnesota Orr FFA Chapter	Douglas S. Cessna Flintstone, Maryland Flintstone FFA	Henry Lyle White West Blocton, Alabama Bibb Co. Area Voc. FFA	Mark Bockman Encampment, Wyoming Loch Leven FFA	Weyerhaeuser Company
Home and Farmstead Improvement	Phil G. Fanning Eskridge, Kansas Mission Valley FFA	Dale Forrester Woodville, New York Belleville FFA	Doug Hamilton Arab, Alabama Arab FFA Chapter	**Richard L. Lowe** Ninnekah, Oklahoma Chickasha FFA	The Upjohn Company
Horse Proficiency	**Jim Thorp** Oskaloosa, Iowa Oskaloosa FFA	Tim Belk Matthews, N. Carolina Sun Valley FFA	Larry Ray Sparkman Hartselle, Alabama Danville FFA Chapter	Rachel Lee Tallant Stanfield, Arizona Casa Grande FFA	The American Morgan Horse Foundation
Ornamental Horticulture	**Robert Lovelace** Elsberry, Missouri Elsberry FFA Chapter	Susan Dewar Raleigh, N. Carolina Cary FFA Chapter	Lonnie Grigsby Gardendale, Alabama Gardendale FFA	Kurt Lubbe Elma, Washington Elma FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Outdoor Recreation	Gary Gasperson Mountain Grove, Missouri Mountain Grove FFA	**Maura Jane Longden** Holden, Massachusetts Wachusett FFA	Matt Barr High Springs, Florida Santa Fe Senior FFA	Kurt W. Kingman Poulsbo, Washington North Kitsap FFA	White Farm Equipment Company
Placement in Agricultural Production	Mark Rosene Antwerp, Ohio Woodlan FFA Chapter	**Don Kuba** Radnor, Ohio Buckeye Valley FFA	Keith Lanier Dyersburg, Tennessee Dyersburg FFA Chapter	Roger Saffer Flagler, Colorado Flagler FFA Chapter	Hesston Corporation and Shell Chemical Company
Poultry Production	**Ronald E. Barkema** Kamrar, Iowa South Hamilton FFA	Kent A. Shipe Mathias, West Virginia East Hardy County FFA	Henry Oliver Daviston, Alabama New Site FFA	Eric Etzel Eagle Point, Oregon Phoenix FFA Chapter	Allied Mills, Inc.
Sheep Production	Robert L. Johnson Delavan, Wisconsin Whitewater FFA	**Mike Richmond** Nevada, Ohio Ridgedale FFA	David S. Pearman Arthur, Tennessee Powell Valley FFA	Rick Jeans Tonkawa, Oklahoma Tonkawa FFA Chapter	National FFA Foundation General Fund
Soil and Water Management	Paul Main Six Lakes, Michigan Lakeview FFA Chapter	**Michael J. Estock** Louisville, Ohio Marlington FFA	Roger Johnson Perkins, Georgia Jenkins County FFA	James M. Beers Putnam, Oklahoma Taloga FFA Chapter	Ford Motor Company
Swine Production	Gary Meinders Buffalo Center, Iowa Buffalo Center Bison FFA	Tim Schaefer Bloomingburg, Ohio Miami Trace FFA	**Donald W. Graham** Lake Butler, Florida Lake Butler Senior FFA	Patrick L. Haight MosesLake, Washington Moses Lake FFA	Pfizer, Inc.
Building Our American Communities					
National BOAC Citation	North Fayette County FFA West Union Iowa	Mason County FFA Chapter Point Pleasant, Virginia	Paris FFA Chapter Paris, Tennessee	Elma FFA Chapter Elma, Washington	Lilly Endowment, Inc.

National Judging Contests

Contest	Winning Team	High Individual	Sponsor
Agricultural Mechanics	**California**—Jim Schuessler, Jim Suberg and Duane Price; Santa Rosa	**John Oden** Spring Hill, Tennessee	The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company
Dairy Cattle	**Minnesota**—Merton Nelson, Trudy Krohnberg and Don Enzenauer; Ellendale	**Merton Nelson** Ellendale, Minnesota	Associated Milk Producers, Inc.
Farm Business Management	**Ohio**—Tom Spuhler, Larry Grosjean and Elmer Good; Smithville	**Kevin Gunning** Deere Park, Washington	Deere & Company
Horticulture	**Minnesota**—Roger Langer, Gregg Stangl, Kevin Voltin and David Gross; Pierz	**Cheryl Ballenger** Columbia, Missouri	American Association of Nurserymen, Inc., Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc., Gulf Oil Chemicals Co., The Vitality Seed Company
Livestock	**California**—Stacy Sortors, Sue Henderson and Trena Kimler; Grass Valley	**Guy Rose** Perkins, Oklahoma	Ralston Purina Company
Meats	**New Mexico**—Randy Lack, Boby Halsell and Harvey Morrow; Hatch	**Randy Lack** Hatch, New Mexico	Jones Dairy Farm, George A. Hormel & Co., Wilson Foods Corporation, Oscar Mayer & Co.
Milk Quailty and Dairy Foods	**Missouri**—Debbie Krewson, Brenda Gibson and Stephen Barnes; Licking	**Debbie Krewson** Licking, Missouri	Mid-America Dairymen, Inc. and Carnation Company
Poultry	**Missouri**—Jim Holloway, Keith Estes and Terry Osborne; Neosho	**Jim Holloway** Neosho, Missouri	Victor F. Weaver, Inc.

Official tests just released on two IH® Series 86 tractors. Both are 78.5 dB(A) quiet!

Two International Series 86 tractors have already been tested officially, and the results show that noise levels in the 1086 and 1586 have actually been reduced to a hushed 78.5 dB(A) *at maximum available power.*

IH, of course, has run similar tests on all the Series 86 tractors. These manufacturer's tests show that every tractor in the line is quieter based on comparisons with the closest model in the IH 66 Series line.

Noise is way down, but horsepower and torque are up!

The 1086 at 130 pto turbocharged horsepower developed a 31% engine torque rise in the lugging ability test. And the 1586 with 161.5 turbocharged horses drove through the lugging test with a 25% torque rise. Everywhere you look, these Series 86 tractors have features and improvements that make working more comfortable . . . operating easier . . . and maintaining trouble-free performance a lot simpler.

You get up to 14 separate monitoring devices.

There are both gauges and warning lights to alert you to service and maintenance needs.

A useful option is the digital read-out tachometer/speedometer that monitors mph, engine rpm, and pto speeds. (It's standard on the Hydro 186.)

Choose from six models – 85* to 161.5 horses.

Every one is designed to get more work from the tractor with less work from you. Look 'em over soon at your IH Dealer, and we think you'll agree: *Power never came with so much comfort.*

*Manufacturer's estimated pto horsepower.

INTERNATIONAL® AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT

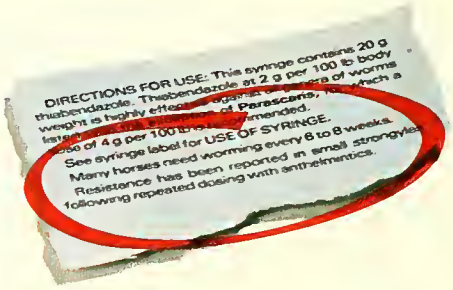
INTERNATIONAL SERIES 86 TRACTORS

Will the real horse wormers

The newest wormer on the market is really 12 years old.

Equivet-Tz* is being advertised as the "most advanced wormer science can offer." Truth is, Equivet-Tz is just a new name on a drug that's more than 12 years old.

You've seen it (thiabendazole) in Equivet-14* and Horse Wormer Two,** but you've rarely seen it alone. Most often, thiabendazole and trichlorfon are used together. Why? Because to get both worms and bots, thiabendazole needs some help.


DIRECTIONS FOR USE: This syringe contains 20 g
thiabendazole. Thiabendazole at 2 g per 100 lb body
weight is highly effec
dose of 4 g per 100 lbs
See syringe label for USE OF SYRINGE.
Many horses need worming every 6 to 8 weeks.
Resistance has been reported in small strongyles
following repeated dosing with anthelmentics.

Some worms have fought off thiabendazole for over a decade.

In 1965 independent researchers found that some small bloodworms already showed resistance to thiabendazole. The worms were just beginning to fight the drug. Now, in 1977, there's new evidence that indicates the problem still exists.[1] So your wormer could be killing time instead of killing worms.

Equivet-Tz is ineffective against bots.

It hardly seems like the wormer that "makes all other wormers obsolete" should ignore bots, but it does. Equivet-Tz doesn't get bots at all. Instead, the manufacturer suggests that you worm once a year with their companion product Equivet-14. Once a year is not enough to control menacing bots. And if Equivet-Tz really made "all other wormers obsolete," you wouldn't need another wormer to protect your horse.

facts about please stand out?

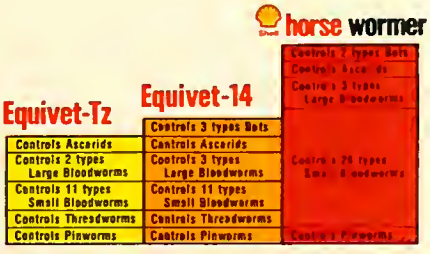
Finicky horses deserve a good wormer, not a "peanut butter" paste.

If you think "peanut butter" paste wormers will solve all your worming problems, ask around. As stated on the label, Shell Horse Wormer gets bots and ten kinds of blood-worms. Equivet-Tz doesn't. And it takes two doses of Equivet-Tz to get the roundworms Shell Horse Wormer gets with one.

Your best bet is still a good in-the-feed wormer—one that most horses eat, and the one that's most effective against both worms and bots.

How the top three wormers really stack up.

Compare the top three advertised wormers. You'll still find Shell Horse Wormer on top. It's been that way for five years, even with a steady procession of "new generation" wormers.



More horse owners worm with Shell Horse Wormer than any other brand. Performance is why.

Your first choice in wormers is still your smartest choice.

When you know the facts about horse wormers, it's easier to make a choice. That's why Shell wants the truth to stand out. And that's why Shell is still the smart horseman's first choice in wormers.

*Equivet-Tz and Equivet-14 are trademarks of the Farnam Companies.
**Horse Wormer Two is a trademark of Merck & Company, Inc.
1 VM/SAC, March, 1977.

The wormer to start with . . . and *stay* with.

Shell **horse wormer**

SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY • Animal Health • One Shell Plaza • Houston, TX 77001

Photos by Author

Ron Barkema knows the good and the bad of raising those Thanksgiving feasts.

TURKEYS

Treasure and Tribulation

By K. Elliott Nowels

WHEN the family sits down at the table on Thanksgiving Day and the turkey is carved, chances are few who gather will stop to think about production of this rather strange bird. It seems simple enough—feed them and they'll get bigger. But the turkey business is more intricate than that and it bears a certain similarity to many other facets of agriculture—and that's the presence of risk.

"They say that there's nothing dumber than a turkey . . . unless maybe it's the guy raising them," Ron Barkema laughed as he said it. It was kind of like telling a joke on himself. The 1977 National Poultry Proficiency award winner captured that title by doing a good job of raising turkeys and making money off of them. He knows most of those risks as well as most of the intricacies. One time the risk caught up with him.

Ron started with about 1,000 turkeys as his project when a Greenhand at South Hamilton FFA in Jewell, Iowa, advised by Reg Soldwish. Although some producers brood their own birds, many, like Ron, simply get their turkeys from the brooder at six weeks of age and a weight of about seven pounds. Ron fed them their usual diet of much corn and protein supplement and spent many hours making sure they had a good supply of fresh water. After six months on the range, the turkeys were ready for market. The hens weighed about 17 to 20 pounds and the less desirable toms from 22 to 30 pounds. The market was fairly strong and Ron's labor income was almost $4,000. During the following two years, he increased his flock number up to 4,000 and initiated some practices to save on labor to increase efficiency and production.

He installed two 12-ton overhead bulk feed bins to decrease the chances of the spread of disease by trucks driving onto the range, after having been at another turkey farm. A piped water system was developed to provide the turkeys with fresh water 24 hours a day, doing away with his old system of hauling the water to the birds by tank-trailer. Ron also built 20 more 10-foot by 20-foot turkey shelters to increase the ranging capacity. All of these things helped Ron to push his net worth to several times the amount made in his first year. But the effects of the turkey price cycle reached Ron market time of his senior year.

The company that had contracted to buy Ron's turkeys apparently had overextended themselves in offering those contracts. With good supplies and thus cheaper prices for beef and pork, the consumer just wasn't taking home as much turkey. The market went weak and Ron's buyer went bankrupt. Since the contract called for a minimum payment of one-half cent per pound on toms and one cent per pound on hens, the company handed Ron a check for $1,687.64 for 6,200 turkeys. Ron had lost money each hour he had worked.

"When you figure $1,687 on 6,200 birds it just doesn't pay for your labor at all," Ron said. "Of course at the same time nothing is going out of your pocket, because they pay for the feed. The shortfall is the lack of return on investment of labor."

The following year Ron contacted the people at Land O'Lakes, another group that has contracted for many of the area's turkeys. "We tried to get in with them but they couldn't handle any more people either. There were just too many turkeys," Ron said. In view of his excellent production record, however, they told him he would be given much consideration if they were able to offer new contracts in 1978.

So for the first time in the 19 years since Ron's father had begun raising turkeys, the farm was void of them. The big supply and high price of protein "was enough to make you decide that it wasn't worth the risk."

"Now I'm glad that I sat out this year," Ron admits. "The market doesn't look very good."

Dave Johnson, another alumnus of the South Hamilton Chapter and also the 1975 winner of the National Poultry Proficiency award, raises turkeys in total confinement. He says the market is improving some, even if it may be a slow improvement.

(Continued on Page 49)

Alexander The Great!

Joe Alexander, PRCA six-time bareback bronc-riding champion, lives in Dee Cee Western Wear. On and off the job.

DEE CEE® AUTHENTIC WESTERN WEAR

A product of Washington Mfg. Co., a division of Washington Industries of Nashville, Tennessee

DC DEE CEE BRAND

FARM REAL ESTATE

The Trend is Up

By J. W. Hackamack

FARMLAND values have more than doubled over the past five years. In fact, they increased 114 percent from March, 1972 to February, 1977 according to the United States Department of Agriculture. To cite an example of this rapid rise—from early 1976 to only one year later—average U.S. farmland increased 17 percent. This gain, equal to $66 per acre, was the largest annual dollar increase in history.

This information was recently published in Doane Agricultural Service Inc.'s* *1977 Annual Farm Real Estate Situation Report.*

Historically, farmland has been an excellent hedge against inflation and returns from farmland have been far superior to the stock market and other types of investments.

Looking ahead to 1978, Doane expects a continued increase in the average price of land; however, the rate of increase may be substantially less than that realized the past several years. Doane's best estimate indicates about a 10 percent increase in average farmland values for the remainder of 1977 and a further slowdown to perhaps a 5 percent gain in 1978.

There are two major reasons for farmland values to be easing: prices in some areas cannot be justified on the basis of expected annual returns; and lowered prices for major crops as a result of expected increases in production in 1977.

Despite these predictions of lessening farmland values for the coming year, Doane believes that an investment in a reasonably priced, productive farm is as sound an investment as can be made. However, reasonable capital gain (increase in value) from farmland is vital as the annual net rent in recent years has not equalled the interest rates charged on long-term loans.

For anyone interested in investing in farmland there are many considerations that should be looked into that extend beyond the value of the land and the income it can produce, if managed properly. These considerations also point out the benefits of farm ownership and make it even more attractive as an investment.

Income Tax Implications. Land should seldom be looked at merely as a tax shelter. Yet, there are opportunities to shelter income through sound land investment and management techniques.

Depreciation of capital assets, soil conservation expenses, land clearing expenses and other expenses are deductible and thus can provide a writeoff against ordinary income. If and when the property is finally sold, the gain as a result of appreciation and reduction in tax basis through depreciation and expense writeoffs, comes back as a capital gain. This is assuming the property is held long enough to qualify for recapture provisions which is for more than ten years.

The opportunity for a "farmer" (anyone owning or operating a farm) to select the cash basis of income tax reporting is another major advantage to farmland as a tax shelter. The principle involved is that in computing income tax on the cash basis, the farmer reports as income only those commodities he has actually sold and reports as expenses only those he has actually paid. Crops can be stored and held into a new crop year to delay income; supplies, fertilizer and seed can be purchased ahead for the next year to increase deductions. Large depreciable items such as machinery, equipment or storage structures can be purchased to help adjust total income.

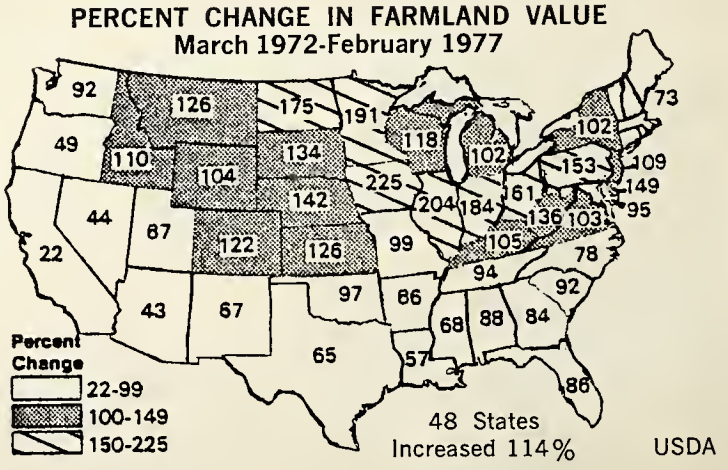
Selection of property. There are three basic principles which must be followed to have a successful farm investment: buy it right, manage it right and dispose of it right.

Land in certain areas is a better buy than in other areas because of a better return on the money and a greater opportunity for appreciation. Prices of land tend to be local in nature. In fact, over 60 percent of the properties purchased have local buyers. The central Illinois buyer at $2,500 per acre is frequently unaware that equally productive farmland in Mississippi can be purchased for $700 per acre.

There are many properties in almost any area that have been allowed to become eroded, grown up in brush; thus, are unattractive investments. A few dollars spent in improvement, which are deductible dollars, can increase the value of these properties substantially with the results of long-term capital gain for tax purposes. Also, individual situations such as estate liquidations, forced sales and many other personal circumstances dictate the availability of exceptional purchases as compared to the general market.

Financing. Nearly half of farmland sellers prefer to sell on an installment basis due to the reduction and postponement of tax on capital gains. Not only does this tax advantage increase the available financing, but the seller often carries the balance of the purchase price at a low interest rate. Additionally, loans are available from traditional commercial sources—life insurance companies, banks and Federal Land Banks. Generally, loans are available from these commercial sources for 60 percent to 80 percent of the purchase price, with reasonable repayment terms at the going interest rate.

In buying farmland, it is important to keep in mind that it is a long investment. Active farmers continue to be the dominant buying group, purchasing nearly two-thirds of all farms.



Headquartered in St. Louis, Doane is one of the leading authorities in the U. S. on the agricultural industry. Doane specializes in farm management, consultation, real estate sales and appraisals, marketing, research and publications. Mr. Hackamack is president of Doane.

STYLE #5008. Chocolate Bull Hide Vamp; 14" Bone Camel Grain Top with Chocolate Bull Hide Collar and Deep Scallop; No. 20 Toe; E Heel; Thin-Line Cushion Shank.

STYLE #1500. Bone Lancer Vamp; 11" Autumn Aniline Kiddie Top with California Scallop; No. 20 Toe; C Heel; Thin-Line Cushion Shank.

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The banquet served native dishes provided by chapters.

Alaska Holds First Convention

Speaking before a group was not easy but Alaska members did quite well.

IN SEPTEMBER sixty teenagers converged on Delta Junction, Alaska, to inaugerate that state's newly formed Future Farmer of America association. Delegates to the first annual state convention from eight Alaskan towns and villages met with visiting FFA members from Washington State to initiate their program. The Alaska Association was officially chartered in November of 1976 at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The state convention lasted three days, September 16-18, and operated under a theme of "New Frontiers In Agriculture."

The delegation listened as James Bode, National FFA President from Geary, Oklahoma, challenged them to build their program into one of the best in the nation. "You are joining over one-half million FFA members who believe that there is a future in agriculture. You have a tremendous potential for agricultural development in your state and it is going to take effective leadership on your part to get that job done," Bode told them.

Accompanying Bode was National Vice President from the FFA's western region, Julie Smiley from Mount Vernon, Washington. The two national officers teamed with state and district FFA officers from Washington State in introducing the FFA program to the Alaskan delegates in attendance. The convention provided training in leadership for the Alaskan members while supplying the opportunity for members from the two states to get acquainted and to share their varied backgrounds.

Many of the Alaskan members were Eskimos from native villages. The eight villages represented were Bethel, Delta Junction, Manokotak, Newhalen, Nome, Selawik, Togiak and Homer. Last year the chapter memberships combined to let Alaska meet the membership requirement for chartering as a state association. The state became the fifty-first chartered association since the territory of Puerto Rico is also considered a state association.

At the conclusion of the conference an FFA banquet hosted over 200 FFA members and their guests. Food provided by the Alaskan chapters included various native dishes of fish, seal, cari-

(Continued on Page 46)

Members visited the area's largest dairy (left below). Center, Dr. Gladys Tinney, state FFA advisor and Mr. Walter Furnace, banquet speaker. Right, James Bode, national FFA president, addresses the delegates.

Great $2.00 Christmas Gift for Dad, Family, Friends!

This special 45 RPM recording hit *"The Great American Farmer"* is a fantastic value at $2.00 and a touching and richly deserved tribute to that very special American farmer . . . **YOUR FATHER!** As an added bonus, on the flip side is ***"The Future Farmers of America"***, with original music and lyrics written and recorded by Ralph Harrison and dedicated to the FFA!

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Photos by Author

FFA on Top Of the World

Selawik FFA in Alaska is exploring new frontiers in agriculture.

By Gary Bye

TO A CORN and hog farmer in Iowa, Selawik, Alaska, may seem like an unusual place for an FFA chapter. Selawik, with its population of 80 families is an isolated Eskimo village located three miles above the Arctic Circle and 275 miles from the Russian border. The FFA Chapter there has the distinction of being the most northerly chapter in the world.

Since the closest road to Selawik is 400 miles away, to reach the village one must fly in on the world's smallest scheduled air carrier. Once safely landed on the gravel strip, a visiting traveller must then depend on the ser-

The local transportation is by boat. Isaiah Geary, left, is a boarding student from Buckland.

The local food supply is becoming scarce and this creates a need to develop the agriculture in the area.

Nick Galady, right, the local agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, with the horticulture class. The FFA was organized by Galady at Selawik in 1976.

Aerial view of Selawik River, the river of fish.

The school, largest building in the village of Selawik.

vices of a friendly native and his boat to ferry the winding Selawik River to reach the village populace.

From the river wooden slatted sidewalks, raised above the frozen tundra, lead through village housing to an attractive new school. The school, also raised on wooden pilings, is the largest building in the village and serves as a center for community activities.

It was at the Selawik school in 1976 that FFA was founded by students under the guidance of FFA advisor Nicholas Galady, the school's science, aviation and agriculture teacher. Selawik was one of eight schools which last year qualified Alaska to receive its state association charter. All of the schools involved are bush schools—a designation given to any school in Alaska outside the metropolitan areas and the highways that link them together.

Galady says the FFA program was started at Selawik "to provide a framework for organizing the students into a summer work crew capable of tending the class's growing plants." In 1975 the horticulture class at Selawik converted the school attic into a greenhouse for growing vegetables and flowers.

Maggy Davis, an FFA member at Selawik, says last year tomatoes, squash and cucumbers were grown in the attic greenhouse. Cucumbers sold in the village for as much as $1.45 a piece since fruit and vegetables are typically imported as canned or frozen products.

As might be expected, the arctic environment is an overriding factor in the village. The terrain is covered by snow for as many as eight months, then becomes water soaked throughout the remainder of the year. The tundra is actually a frozen gel, composed mainly of water with suspended particles of soil and plant life. Galady observes that growing plants can root only a few inches before reaching the permafrost layer which does not allow root penetration.

During winters in Selawik, days grow so short that for a few weeks in midwinter the sun appears only briefly above the horizon. In the summer the reverse situation occurs, giving the residents nearly 24 hours of continuous sunlight each day for over a month. The effective growing season during the summer is less than 90 days and despite the fact that the area is covered by water, it receives less than 11 inches of rainfall each year. "It is like a giant desert inside an icebox," notes Galady.

Under these circumstances, growing food is extremely difficult, yet the need for producing food is becoming a critical activity at Selawik. The native population has grown rapidly with the advent of modern medical practice, which has lowered the death rate and cut infant mortality by more than half. At the same time motorized vehicles have made game more readily accessible, causing depletion of the traditional meat sources such as moose and caribou.

Eskimos from neighboring whaling villages have also noted significant reductions in their harvest of whale and seal for food. One of the Selawik FFA's boarding students, Isaiah Geary, who is a regular member of the whaling party from his village of Buckland, says that on the hunt in 1976, 18 White Whale were harvested. Last year the party was successful in taking only three.

The result is a lack of native food, a problem which is now remedied only by the expensive importation of food from the continental United States.

Galady and his group of FFA members hope slowly to add native grown food to the supply. In September they returned from their state FFA convention with four New Zealand Whites, a breed of domestic rabbit. The FFA plans to manage the breeding and feeding of the animals and to make their offspring available to the village families through the FFA membership. The rabbits, much larger than the native Arctic hare could be used for both meat and fur. Other small animals the chapter is considering for production are chickens and goats.

Galady says large animal production of domestic animals is impractical in the Arctic because of the long winter and its snow cover, which would limit any type of grazing. However, serious consideration is being given to reviving the village practice of herding reindeer. Reindeer herds, introduced to Alaska from Siberia in the 1930's flourished for several years at Selawik until in 1969 when the village herd joined migrating wild caribou, taking yet another source of food from the villagers.

The strain on food supplies for Selawik is just one symptom of the difficulties that the traditional native communities of the Arctic are experiencing with the confrontation between traditional life styles and the social and technical progress of the 20th century.

Less than 100 years ago the Eskimo way of life at Selawik was nearly the same as their ancestors had known 1,000 years before. They were hunters and gatherers of game and native vegetation. Even without the use of metals they were self sufficient for food and clothing. Travel was by dog sled or by canoe built from whale bone and seal skin. Homes were made from the tundra soil and animal skins.

Today much of that culture is gone. Families at Selawik still do fish for whitefish and pike, drying the meat on outdoor racks for use in the winter. But families also import much of their food and clothing and travel is often by snowmobile, motorboat or charter airplane.

In September, lines were strung for individual telephones to the village homes and soon commercial television beamed by satellite from the 48 states will also be available to the native homes.

"Such rapid change has serious consequences," notes Galady. "Alcohol

(Continued on Page 46)

TESTS: Learn How to Take Them

By Russell J. Fornwalt

WHAT'S your goal? A high school diploma or a college degree? A scholarship? A position with the Department of Agriculture? A job promotion? Enlistment or advancement in military service? An apprenticeship? A license to drive a trailer truck or be a veterinarian? Or to pass that test tomorrow in soil technology or dairy herd management?

It seems that no matter what you want in or out of life, you must take tests. But do you really know how to take them? Perhaps the suggestions to follow will not only help you to be less anxious about tests, but they will help you to get higher marks or the job or license you want.

First of all, before you take any test, get yourself completely relaxed—mentally, physically and emotionally. If you are tense, taut or tired, you may either black out, block out or blank out, and then flunk out. If your mind is in a whirl or swirl, you might not remember whether it was George Washington Carver or Jimmy Carter who invented peanut butter. You might not even recall when the War of 1812 took place!

Prior to any test do not permit your mind to be preoccupied with thoughts of failure. Such negative ideas won't add to your composure. In fact, they may only induce failure—but quick. The right point of view about tests will help you relax your mind.

Tell yourself that regardless of the outcome, you have everything to gain. Pass with a high mark, and you win the medal, the scholarship, the job or whatever. Get a low mark, and you learn just what your weaknesses and shortcomings are.

In fact, one good reason for taking tests is to find out what needs improvement. Too many failures can point up the need for learning *how* to take tests.

When you are seated in the test room, shut your eyes for a moment (not longer, you might fall asleep) and shut out the hustle and bustle of the world around you. Resolve to do your best. Resolve to accept the outcome, whatever it is, cheerfully. If you fail, it will not be the end of the world.

Sit by yourself and be quiet. Have confidence in yourself. Avoid getting mixed up with others who are engaged in that last minute cramming and cackling. That only makes for confusion as well as failing marks.

Preparation for *any* test does not start the night before. It starts days, weeks or even months prior to the examination. Does it not even begin on the very first day of school or the day you begin your course in biology, chemistry or poultry raising? So, keep up with your daily assignments. When tests roll around all you will need to do is some systematic reviewing instead of hectic cramming.

In reviewing, you cannot, of course, re-read or re-study an entire textbook the night before the test. The thing to do, then, is to digest carefully the summaries at the ends of the chapters. Also, go through your books and study the underlined parts and the marginal notes. They are important, or you would not have underscored them. Look over the items in your notebooks carefully. Often the *most* important material is what your instructor advised you to put in your notebook.

By being alert in class, you can easily predict what some, if not all, of the test questions will be. What dates, theories, formulas, terms or words, events, individuals, facts and figures and so forth are constantly being emphasized? Keep on the lookout for test-question clues. Study your teacher's test-question techniques.

Learn the very profitable art of test-question prediction. Then, you will not waste time on meaningless material. Never, but never, be absent on "review days" before tests.

In preparing for the tests in history, geography, geology, oceanography and similar subjects, it is well to use as many "visual aids" as possible. By looking carefully at maps, charts, globes, models, diagrams, photographs and film strips or slides, you can fix things more firmly and permanently in your mind.

Various "audio aids" can also be used in the reviewing process. Perhaps you made "tapes" of important lectures on soil agronomy or animal husbandry during the year. Use them as you prepare for a test.

If possible, do your test studying before midnight. Cramming and ramming facts and figures into your cranium at four o'clock in the morning (perhaps after some monster movie on the late-late-late show) may only add to your

anxiety. Get your customary seven or eight hours of sleep so that you will be refreshed and alert when test time comes.

Do you have memory trouble? If so, you might try using "mnemonic" devices or "monikers" as they are sometimes called. For example, let us say you need to remember the order among the colors of the spectrum. Well, you might use ROY G. BIV as your moniker. Just remember that the letters in that name stand for Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet. Quite a colorful idea!

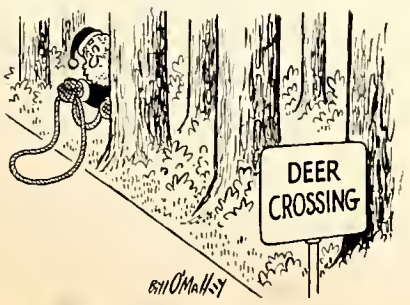
Here's another mnemonic (and we have spelled the word correctly) device in case you want to remember the names of the planets—"Mary's Violet Eyes Make John Sit Up Nights Pining." The first letter of each word is the beginning of a planet—Mars, Venus, Earth, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.

We could not list all the mnemonic devices in the world. There are millions of them. You simply invent them as you need them for a specific test, assignment, speech or other reason. You may devise a moniker to use but once and then discard it. However, you will find that many monikers will remain in your mind for a lifetime. Ever hear of the nations of the world getting together for SALT talks? They have nothing at all to do with salt.

Without making a "ball" of it, you might do some review work with one or two other members of the class. But be sure to get down to business—but fast. You will find it best to study for an hour. Take a short break and then study for another hour or so.

Look over some of your past test papers. Study the kinds of errors you made in them. Were you careless in spelling or inaccurate in your simple arithmetic? You may discover that you wrote "1942" when you really meant "1492."

Be prepared "materially" for the test. Take everything with you that you will need. Paper or a test booklet will probably be supplied. But you may be expected to furnish your own well-sharpened pencils, erasers, ball-point pens, and, if needed, a sliderule or drawing instruments. Be prepared to start the minute the examiner says "go" or when



"Do I have to take the test? I only need one for identification . . !"

the bell rings. You will only add to your own anxiety and that of others, if you have to borrow pencils and other things.

If there are printed directions in the test booklet, read them carefully. Ask questions when you are not clear about anything. Listen with both ears wide open as directions are given orally. Often it is wise to sit in front of the room where you can hear the examiner and see the blackboard, if one is used.

For many tests there is a time-limit of some kind, and this can be anxiety-producing. But just keep in mind that everyone has the same amount of time. Remember, too, that marks are often scaled. If the smartest person in the class answers 50 of the 100 questions correctly, he may receive an "A." By answering only 40 correctly, you might get a "B" while someone else gets a "C" for having 30 right.

Always be sure that you know what the time is. If you have only an hour and there are 60 questions, you have to answer one a minute. So, if question No. 13 stumps you, skip it and go on to the next. Later, if there's time, you can go back and try unlucky "13" again. If permitted, do your calculating on scratch paper.

It is often helpful to look over all the test before doing any part of it. In Question No. 16, you may find a clue to the answer to No. 7. It is best to answer the easier questions first.

If you finish the test before the time limit is up, do not go darting right out of the room. Spend the remaining time checking and doublechecking those algebra problems. Check spelling, punctuation, grammar, dates, dimensions, capitalization and so forth. Did you say feet when you meant inches? Did you use the word *there* for *their* or *here* for *hear*? Some teachers take off a point or two for small or careless mistakes. And, often it is those points that spell the difference between passing and failing.

Whoa!!

STUMPED over what to give Dad for Christmas this year? Here's the perfect solution: Give him a copy of *Horsepower*, a book any farmer will enjoy. It makes a great gift to give "Grandpa", too. (If you can't foot the bill for this book, show this ad to Mom.)

Horsepower is a book he'll read and reread, as it lets him take an arm-chair visit with over 100 draft horse owners all across the country. He'll feel he's standing right on their farms, leaning on a fence, as each owner tells him of experiences while working, training, showing or competing in pull contests with draft horses.

This big book includes a complete section on Dick Sparrow, the Iowa farmer who put together the famous 40-horse hitch. It tells why he took on that challenge . . . how he selected and trained those 40 big Belgians . . . and some of his *scary* experiences while driving them in parades, including one near runaway!

More Than 300 Photos illustrate this 8¼ x 11-in. 260-page book. He'll get so lost in it, remembering the "good old days" when a farmer *depended* on horses, Mom will have to holler at him twice to get his attention! This book is fully *guaranteed*—if not satisfied, return it in a week and we'll refund your money.

This *Horsepower* book is published by *Farm Wife News* magazine . . . why not give a gift subscription of *Farm Wife News* to your Mom for Christmas? It's *her* kind of magazine—it comes *monthly*, and is filled with recipes, homemaking hints, sewing tips, decorating ideas, craft projects, and much more! (Ask Dad to help you pay for this one!)

ORDER FORM

☐ Yes, I'd like___copies of *Horsepower* for Dad and/or Grandpa at $11.95 each.

☐ Yes, I'd like a gift subscription to *Farm Wife News* for Mom at $7.95 a year for 12 monthly issues.

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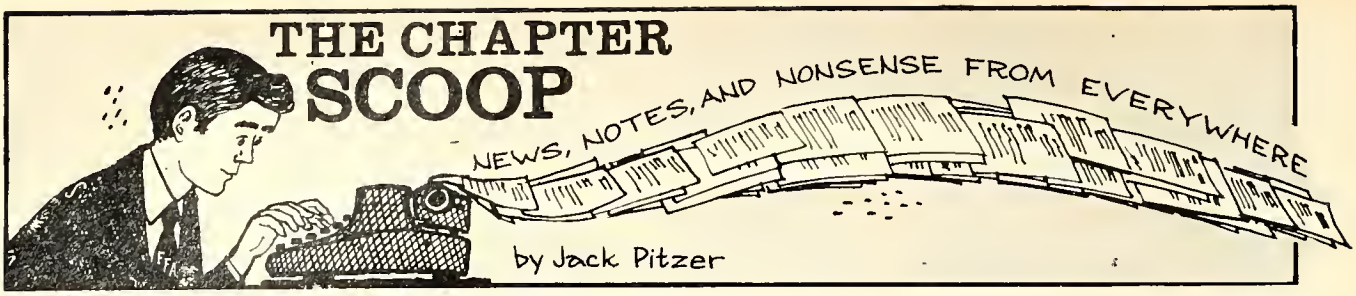
Send w/payment to: FWN Country Store, Suite 626, 611 E. Wells, Milwaukee WI 53202.



Moorefield, West Virginia, Chapter made and sold 40 gallons of ice cream at a local heritage weekend.

N-N-N

But, *Indian Creek,* Trafalgar, Indiana, made 450 gallons to sell at county fair. They used 440 pounds of sugar, 180 dozen eggs and 5,750 pounds of ice plus milk and cream.

N-N-N

President **Jeff Geeding,** Vice President **Todd Smith** and Secretary **Mark Yeazel** went through their first radio interview at *New Paris,* Ohio.

N-N-N

Prague, Oklahoma, freshmen auctioned FFA items like tee-shirts and road signs left over in inventory.

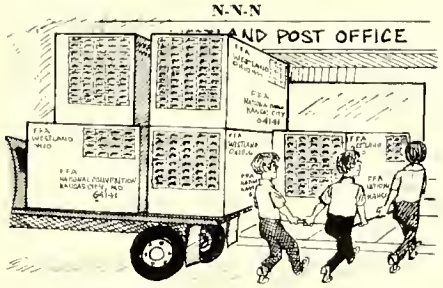
N-N-N

Word has come in about an embarrassing moment for the advisor of *Belt,* Montana, who forgot lines to the ceremony (and especially after "urging" officers to work on theirs!).

N-N-N

Page County FFA in Virginia has achieved 100 percent FFA membership from vo-ag and proud of it.

N-N-N



Westland, Ohio, set up a booth at annual volunteer fire department fish fry. Money used to buy float supplies and send officers to National Convention.

N-N-N

Troy, Kansas, members and families enjoyed hosting the four Russian exchange students in their homes who were on tour in the U. S.

N-N-N

The *East Bernard,* Texas, Chapter has over 90 members and one-third of them have brothers in the chapter. In this third, there is only one girl.

N-N-N

Profits from "slave" sales are often big. *St. Paul,* Nebraska, made $1,125.00.

N-N-N

Las Cruces, New Mexico, hort team claims to be state champ for six years.

N-N-N

Buckeye, Arizona, Chapter was hired to prepare and serve a barbeque to feed area cotton farmers after a tour of various chemical company test areas.

Steve Schoonderwoerd of *Sandpoint,* Idaho, has a grand champion hog at county fair. If they engraved his name on the trophy, it must've been a big one.

N-N-N

Sounds like fun—summer activity of *Palmdale,* California, was deep sea fishing and High Sierra back packing.

N-N-N

Howe, Oklahoma, went deep sea fishing in the Gulf of Mexico with money from their sausage sale.

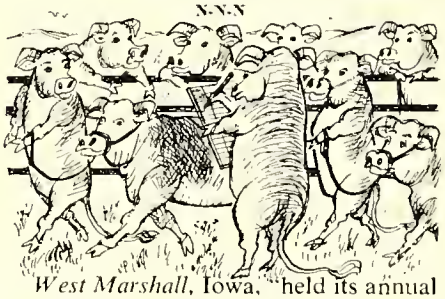
N-N-N

Uniontown, Kansas, joined in the fun of their town's traditional old settlers day by raffling ducklings and a pig.

N-N-N

Sales items for *Vallivue,* Idaho, was sweet corn. All helped pick and sell.

N-N-N



West Marshall, Iowa, "held its annual steer show with 67 steers participating."

N-N-N

People who needed garden plots could use one of the 40 plots *North Thurston,* Washington, FFA tilled on the ag farm.

N-N-N

Extra attractions at *Pasco,* Washington, kiddies fair were a porcupine, descented skunk, a Canadian goose and a crow that said "hello."

N-N-N

For 30 years Greenhands in *Warrenton,* Missouri, have gone through the same initiation. Candidates wear boots, overalls inside out, "gunny sack" shirt, a straw hat and a sign "I'm a Future Farmer." On installation day they get a green hand. The tradition is continued.

N-N-N

John Brewen is the third of three brothers to be president of the *Fredericktown,* Missouri chapter.

N-N-N

Reporter **Bill Koblisha** of *Tomah,* Wisconsin, sends word of the chapter card party for members and parents.

N-N-N

All in one night, *Southern Wells,* Indiana, FFA held a Greenhand installation, sweetheart contest, chili supper and a "slave" sale.

N-N-N

Perry, Michigan, has never had so many Greenhands—57.

The *Lake City,* Iowa, Chapter's prexy was to lead FFA WEEK parade, but his tractor wouldn't start.

N-N-N

Alumni affiliate of *Norfolk* County ag school in Walpole, Massachusetts, has a big and successful family picnic for any grads.

N-N-N

Ever wonder about how to prepare news items or articles for *The National FUTURE FARMER*? Check the 1977 Official Manual on pages 97 and 98.

N-N-N

Denmark, Wisconsin, FFA sponsored the state softball tourney. Although it was work, they'll net $7,000 or so.

N-N-N

Officers of *Lathrop,* Missouri, were invited for dinner at their advisor's home. Then planned the year's agenda.

N-N-N

Section, Alabama, FFA had a swim party for their new members.

N-N-N

Reporter **Richard Ruma** and Sentinel **Greg Bryant** are on the air every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. for *Clarksville,* Tennessee, FFA.

N-N-N

Manchester, Iowa, has put in 15 fireplaces for picnickers in city park.

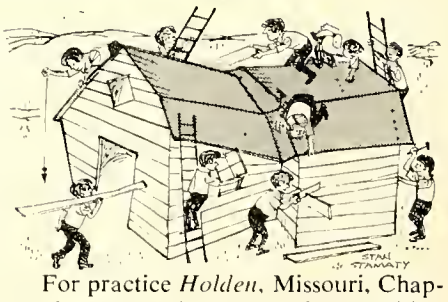
N-N-N

"We presented an Honorary Chapter Farmer degree to our principal who goes on field trips and contests with us." *Earlham,* Iowa.

N-N-N

At FFA sponsored faculty breakfast in *Marengo,* Iowa, they present a champion pancake eater award.

N-N-N



For practice *Holden,* Missouri, Chapter built a 32-foot by 48-foot addition to a county show barn. Then for the real thing, they built an 82-foot by 100-foot barn for a local dairy farmer.

N-N-N

Parkers Prairie, Minnesota, held an open horse show in October.

N-N-N

Many chapters get in a letter or note every issue for our consideration in Scoop. Can anybody write in your chapter?

Respect

It shines in the eyes of a kid brother and shows in the way people treat you. You feel it deep inside yourself. It's something you earn as a United States Marine.

For over 200 years our uniform and our readiness to serve our country have merited respect.

No two ways about it, it's no easy thing to become a Marine. You need a body we can help build, a mind we can help sharpen, plus that all-important something coaches call "desire".

If these things are in your make-up, we can offer you a great life in our Corps. Your occupation could be one of many that pays off for life: electronics, aviation, engineering, to name a few.

If you're a high school graduate, or will graduate soon, and you want to gain the respect that comes to a United States Marine, do this: Mail the card, or call 800-423-2600, toll free. In California, 800-252-0241.

By the way, tell your kid brother (if he's as good as you are) that some day, when he grows up, he can stand proud with us, too.

The Few. The Proud. The Marines.

The Labyrinth of LOANS and LENDING

IT probably all started out innocently enough. One caveman didn't have wood for his fire so his neighbor loaned him some. In return, the borrower replaced all the wood that he took and added two pieces as a kind of thank-you.

Nowadays, when it takes many filled-out forms just to live, the world of loans and lending has become more complicated. It's hard enough for a young person to make it through that tiny door to the other side and be someone who has "credit." But if you are trying to break into farming by obtaining capital, that door shrinks again.

"It isn't *that* much different than it has been for 20 years, though," says Jerry E. Kjerstad, assistant vice president of the Federal Land Bank of Omaha in Nebraska.

"Higher capital requirements magnify the problems of the past, but credit has always been a problem for young people starting out in farming," he said, adding that he thought there was no way you can borrow 100 percent of capital and pay it off from the returns of that farmer. "Really, it's not much different than any small business, whether it's a drug store or any of the typical businesses up and down the street."

Kjerstad, who is involved with lending standards with the farm credit system, said the solution was a father, uncle or brother who was already involved in farming, but cautioned that the relationship with credit should still be established early on.

"Quite often the banker will say 'Harry, I'll loan it to you and you can loan it to your son.' That's really not the way it should be done," he said. "I think the son or daughter has to be a part of the operation sooner and learn how to handle credit."

Kjerstad explained that loan officers of the farm credit banks typically would build their credit evaluation of you around five credit factors. They are:

• **INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY**—They'll try to find out what kind of person you are. Since you are young, your school record will likely play a part in it. Another key for the loan officer is family background, whether or not you've been exposed to the full range of farming experiences, including management, from *more* than just a hired hand standpoint.

• **FINANCIAL POSITION AND PROGRESS**—Do you owe any money to anyone, else? What is your current financial position? For the younger individual, a big plus can be the ability to accumulate assets through earnings. The emphasis is on *earnings,* not simply gifts. Also, have you been reinvesting your profits back into your operation?

• **REPAYMENT CAPACITY**—This is the biggest limiting factor for any borrower. It is, of course, your ability to pay off the loan. It is actually talking about the future, but is usually based on the past. Since younger people have a limited amount of "past," your parents' repayment record will likely come into play.

• **BASIS OF APPROVAL**—The bank has complete control over only one of these five factors—basis of approval. In addition to setting the amount and time given to pay it back, the lender is likely to include certain "conditions" in the agreement, such as a yearly record review or some other method of monitoring your financial progress.

• **SECURITY OR COLLATERAL**—According to Kjerstad, after everything else is considered, the lending service will take a look at collateral. What do you own that could guarantee repayment in the event of foreclosure? Liens on real estate or other property will be necessary to guarantee—often by Law—a loan of good size, although uncollateralized loans are common.

These five factors probably play a part in almost every lending institution's process for determining who does and who doesn't get a loan. Emphasis on certain points will vary with the size of the bank and the area it serves.

Dale Veach's title at the Bowen State Bank in Bowen, Illinois, is cashier, though he says that "in a small bank like this a cashier does a little of everything," including serve as a type of loan officer occasionally. Bowen is a town of about 600 people in the heavy grain country of west Illinois. Veach say their primary loan portfolio consists of people who have lived in the area for a long time.

"Our primary dealings with young people are when the son is perhaps taking over the family farm," he said. "Even with these loans usually we're dealing with somebody we've dealt with before." Veach explained that in making loans to young people for machinery or livestock the big consideration has been the father's status. He hinted that the shadow of "dad" might be unjust to some.

"It's unfortunate that we have to do it that way, but that's the way it is," he said.

Kjerstad thought it wise for a younger person to start out in a very labor intensive operation to minimize his capital requirements. Both he and Veach thought diversity was important.

"I like the guy that has livestock as well as grain," said Veach, "That way if he has a bad year in one thing, he'll still be fairly well off." He added an "especially in years like this."

"There are some things in the young person's favor, too," said Kjerstad. "For one thing, he doesn't require a large amount of credit. For another, he's usually a hustler—even if the weather goes against him, he will go out and work, doing custom baling or whatever, to make the payments. And we've got all sorts of success stories along those lines."

And so it goes. A simple loan to buy some cattle can get your foot in the massive door of credit. Making a profit and keeping your repayment record clean will help get the rest of you inside. *(By K. Elliott Nowels)*

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Alaska

(Continued from Page 34)

bou, walrus, reindeer, whale, and moose. Entertainment was provided by popular country-western singer Kay Adams, a resident of Delta Junction.

Guest speakers for the banquet included Walter Furnace, a former member of the New Farmers of America (the all black organization which merged with the FFA in 1963). Furnace is now a banker with the Alaskan National Bank. Other speakers were Mr. Darwin Heine of the State Board of Education and Mr. Lee Fett, a local dairyman. All of the speakers expressed their satisfaction with the new state organization and noted the tremendous possibility for agriculture development in a state which is farming less than 17,000 acres of 20 million acres with an agricultural potential.

State FFA awards were presented for the first time. Winning superior chapter awards were Nome and Bethel Chapters. A state proficiency award was presented in horticulture to Debbie Johnson, a member from the Nome Chapter. The Building Our American Communities award for the state was presented to the Newhalen Chapter.

Opening and closing ceremonies for the banquet were presented by newly elected Alaskan officers. The new officers are President Karen Barker from Bethel, Vice president Gerald Anelon of Newhalen, Secretary Randy Souhrada of the Delta Junction chapter and Treasurer Robert Hendricks also of Delta Junction. The new Reporter is Annie Sherman of Nome and the Sentinel is Peggie Mayne of Selawik. The new officers who had learned their ceremonial parts only hours before the banquet performed like seasoned members in their first official ceremony as state officers.

One afternoon of the convention was spent touring local agricultural businesses. Since the state is so vast and agriculture so varied, many of the members were able to view segments of agriculture they had not seen prior to their visit to Delta Junction. Visits were made to a large poultry operation where the students saw caged layers. The group also visited the area's largest dairy. While on the tour, members saw a wild herd of buffalo and later were able to see the Alaskan pipeline that had been put into operation only days before their visit.

FFA officers from Washington State visit the famous Alaskan pipeline.

During the convention, some chapters scheduled individual visits to local farms so their members could experience first-hand facets of farm life not found in their area. Experiences included horseback riding and milking cows by hand.

While students attending the convention learned about the workings of the FFA organization, their teachers also met in workshops to share teaching techniques they have found to be successful in the unique Alaskan environment.

Other aspects of the convention included a caribou barbeque and a presentation by the state president of the Alaskan Reindeer Herders Association, Danny Karmun of Nome. *By Gary Bye*

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FFA on Top

(Continued from Page 37)

abuse is high and the suicide rate here is higher than the national average. Yet the people here know there is no turning back."

Indeed, as Galady sees it, the movement aided now by the infant FFA is toward making the cultural transition as smooth as possible by first building native leadership among the Eskimos to enable them to make the critical community decisions they will confront in the future. And by secondly building on the Eskimo's sense of self reliance and independence to again become more self sufficient.

Galady says because native corporations are now taking a more active role in the areas of politics and finance (areas totally alien to the native cultures) a background of FFA in high school is extremely valuable. "I can't think of anything that would be more super-tailored for preparing students to meet these new needs," he says.

Alaska is indeed a new frontier for agriculture and for FFA. As with boundaries of the past, the people involved will experience irreversible changes as progress is made. The FFA at Selawik is helping make those changes for the better.

"To me it sounds like a duck call."

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FFA in Action

The Great Grape Stomp

Although wine is not made by stomping any more, the town of Lodi, California, still carries out that old tradition.

The largest annual event in the town is the "Lodi Grape Festival and National Wine Show." There is grape judging where just about all the local growers compete with their table and wine grapes. In the junior divisions the Lodi FFA Chapter was represented exceptionally well and Matthew Perman received many awards.

The highlight of the festival is the popular annual "Great Grape Stomp." There are wine barrel halves put up on a stage, each filled with 80 pounds of Zinfandel grapes. There are two representatives from an organization who have four minutes to stomp as many grapes as they can. The team which gets the most juice through the funnel at the bottom of the barrel into the measuring container wins. Lodi FFA was represented by Kathy Lipelt, reporter, and Cricket Holmes, treasurer.

Kathy Lipelt, left, and her partner, Cricket Holmes, right, were the grape stomping team that took second prize.

The two FFA'ers stomped so well they ended up surpassing the men stompers and got second place. They received purple feet and a check for $60 which the chapter donated to the American Cancer Society.

Ties Town Together

The Belleville, New York, Chapter held its second annual agricultural community fair in September. An estimated 600 people attended and 550 ribbons and awards were given away in areas such as the horse and pony show, poultry and small animals, field and forage and shop. Others are garden, plants and flowers, home economics, garden tractor pull, greased pig contest, bicycle safety contest, art display and antique agriculture display.

The fair was a big success in our community and it looks like it will continue for a number of years to come. Instead of a money-making project the fair is designed to create more community interest and to bring it together. The fair board consists of numerous people from the community and the FFA officer team.

The fair also has stimulated much interest in the organization and is bringing many community organizations to work together for a common goal and not overlap or be repetitious in agriculture oriented activities. *(Art Ives, Reporter)*

Questions Answered

More than 50 FFA members and parents were on hand for parent-member FFA Orientation Night at the Addison County Vocational Center in Middlebury, Vermont.

The chapter officers began the meeting with the FFA opening ceremony after which Asssistant Director of the Vocational Center Andy Williams welcomed the group. Chapter Parliamentarian Shaun Litchfield showed a slide/tape presentation about FFA history.

State President Tom Pyle led a panel discussion during which local chapter presidents from the Middlebury, Mount Abe, Otter Valley and Vergennes Chapters answered questions most frequently asked by new FFA members about the FFA. The audience was then given a chance to ask questions of their own.

Bill Scott, chairman of the vocational agribusiness department at the Center, explained the integral role of the FFA in the agriculture classroom.

A special guest, Bruce Maloch, national FFA secretary for 1976-77, addressed the group.

The officers closed the meeting. Then punch and cookies afterward along with informal conversation concluded a successful meeting. *(Janet Golub, Advisor)*

An Old FFA Idea Helps a New Chapter

Acorn High School is a rural school located in the heart of the Quachita Mountains in extreme western Arkansas. The general agricultural interests in this area are livestock production, poultry production and forestry. On January 21, 1974, the chapter was chartered by the state association.

Chapter members decided last April to invest in a chapter pig chain. Money to finance this project was earned through a chapter-sponsored candy sale. The money earned as a result of this sale was invested in the purchase of four eight-week old gilt pigs, for the beginning of the chain. (Two other gilts were donated—one by a chapter member and another by an area swine producer.) This made a total of six pigs in the initial beginning of the chain.

Chapter members wrote an essay entitled, "Why I Want a Gilt" to determine who would be selected to receive the gilts. In this essay, they stated their plans for raising the gilt, the facilities they had for raising the hog and what they planned to do with the earnings from the project. The essays were evaluated by an impartial group of teachers in the school system who have agricultural interests.

Each member who received a pig is responsible for managing it until it farrows and the pigs are weaned. During this time, the hog is kept as a supervised farming project with accurate farm records kept on its care and management. When the pigs from the first litter are weaned, one gilt pig is returned to the chapter to be given to another member to continue the chain. The remainder of the pigs and the sow become the property of the member who raised them.

Showing the gilt at the local county fair is part of the member's responsibility. This offers a chance to develop leadership, gain knowledge in showmanship and get involved in FFA activities.

Several members have since purchased other hogs including registered gilts and a registered Duroc boar. Our

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Turkeys

(Continued from Page 30)

"The supply has come down a little," he said, "And it looks like it's going to go lower." Hence, prices look a little stronger.

Dave believes that confinement is the "way to go" in producing turkeys. "With the controlled environment, I can keep them at the right temperature, control diseases easier and limit activity," he explained. He went on to say that limiting daylight will limit activity. The 6,500 odd turkeys pictured on the cover seem to bear out Dave's claims. They were half of a recently marketed batch and he was proud to inform that average per bird weight was 29.7 pounds and 85 percent of those marketed met grade A standards. Not bad for only 23 weeks of feeding—from day-old to sale-weight birds.

The biggest drawback to total confinement is the apparent high overhead. Even if you know the turkey market won't enable you to break even, you still can't afford to let the building sit idle. In a sense you're locked into turkey production for a while, whereas with the range set-up you might be able to play the markets a bit more easily. Either method, mistakes can be costly.

"You just got to make sure you know what you're doin' when you decide to raise them," Ron said, explaining that some of their instincts can be fatal to them. Especially so is their urge to cram close together during cold or a storm.

"We lost 2,600 birds in one night during a storm in 1974," said Ron. "We happened to have them in a low part of the pasture. We came out the next morning and dead turkeys were just floatin' all over the place." The turkeys had apparently all piled to one side of the shelter and the birds on the bottom had suffocated or drowned when water started collecting.

The problem is magnified because the younger birds are even more nervous. Even a sudden loud noise will set them to piling up. To this production peculiarity add the peculiarity of the turkey market. In addition to its obvious ties to beef and pork, is the consumer's relegation of turkey to an eat-only-on-Sunday-or-holidays spot in the American diet.

"Even though poultry tends to be a bargain, people usually reserve it for Thanksgiving. It's kind of unfortunate, it hurts the market," Ron said.

Do all these intricacies and risks serve to overly discourage these turkey producers? No, not much at all.

"The turkey market has generally been a good one to be in, we wouldn't have stuck with it for 19 years if it hadn't. In a good year you usually net at least $1 per bird," Ron emphasized. As with many other operations, those good years always seem to make it all worthwhile.

"You know, Gary, for a few seconds you were pure poetry in motion!"

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FFA in Action

(Continued from Page 48)

initial goal of encouraging more interest in swine production has been achieved. Each member has benefitted greatly from his involvement in this project. *(Darrell Wilhite, Chapter President)*

A Slow Pitch

Each year in July teams from chapters of Iowa's South Central District hold a series of slow-pitch softball games, leading up to a district tournament.

The tournament, which was first held in 1974, is organized and run by the district officer team. The use of slow-pitch rules is intended to make the games as active and as exciting as possible.

The 1977 tournament held on July 18 featured teams from eight chapters that were winners and runners-up in the previously held sub-district contests.

As the day progressed, teams played and were eliminated until finally only two were left to battle it out in the championship game. In a hard-fought game, a team from the Chariton FFA Chapter edged a team from the Grand Valley FFA to earn the title. *(David Soorholtz, District Reporter)*

The softball tournament is a popular summer recreational activity for FFA members in the south central district.

Pumpkin Public Relations

Wrightstown, Wisconsin, FFA members have had "fun" with a pumpkin raising project as well as its serving as a fine public relations program.

Twenty-seven members of the chapter participated in a unique pumpkin growing project this past summer. Each of these members raised two varieties of pumpkins.

One variety was raised on a contest basis to raise the heaviest pumpkin. Rick Van Eperen was the champion pumpkin grower with a pumpkin that weighed in at 101 pounds. Dan Vondracek won second place with a 99-pound pumpkin and Mike Bowers placed third with a 95-pound pumpkin.

Cash prizes were awarded to the top ten growers. The top three winning pumpkins were put on public display in the window of the Wrightstown Post Office. This served as a fine public relations display.

The second variety of pumpkin was a Jack-O-Lantern type pumpkin. These pumpkins were donated to students at the elementary school where they were decorated on a contest basis. The FFA presented the winners with appropriate ribbons.

Two large carved pumpkins were also presented to the kindergarten classes where they were put on display during Halloween week. Halloween treats were also presented to kindergarten pupils by FFA members. *(Jim Haese, President)*

Parent's Night Line Up

Big Walnut, Ohio, FFA held their annual parent's night to welcome freshmen and their parents into the FFA.

Larry DeWitt explained the occupational experience projects. Bruce McClary told about the livestock projects. John Hale reported on crop projects. Steve Saunders told about his Work Experience Placement and Brenda Lord on home improvements projects. Jeff Miller and Laura Bergman gave a slide presentation on FFA activities. Main speaker for the evening was State Officer Emily Nitschke who spoke on motivation.

Tim Mackley gave the FFA Creed and told about the Greenhand degree; Dwayne Wampler told about the chapter degree. The State FFA degree and the American Farmer degree were explained by Dave Hale, past state treasurer. The BOAC project was explained by Mark VanHoose and the safety program by Scott Craig. The three instructors Mr. Leon Snyder, Mr. Jeff Shaner and Mr. Mike Kissinger told about the classroom work. After the closing ceremonies, refreshments were served.

International Picnic

It looked like the United Nations in action when the Paul Miller family held a WEA (Work Experience Abroad) picnic in August for the FFA in Sunbury, Ohio. The WEA is the National FFA's program where students travel to different countries to learn how farming operations are carried out.

The evening was spent in food, fun and fellowship: introducing area host families and the international young people. Those in attendance were Ignance Vandanbusseche from Belgium and his host family Mr. and Mrs. John Hall from Sunbury. Udi BenShlomo from Israel and Tad Barlusiak, a 4-H exchange student from Poland, who are staying with the Ronnie Jackson family in Delaware County. From Marysville came the ten members of the Charles Watson family and their student, Jim Brown, from England. Avner Shilock from Israel and the Paul Miller family. Avner had guests from his village in Israel visiting him and they were in attendance: Mr. and Mrs. Nachman Vilna. Mrs. Vilna (Andi) is an American citizen from Boston. Connie Bachman, Big Walnut treasurer and Bruce McClary chapter sentinel, Jeff Miller, reporter, represented the Big Walnut FFA along with Mr. and Mrs. Leon Snyder and Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Shaner, Big Walnut FFA advisors. The Big Walnut FFA is the sponsoring FFA chapter.

The highlight of the evening was teaching the exchange students how to play softball. The coaching was great because the final score of the game was WEA'ers 3—FFA 2.

The FFA picnic was like a family size United Nations get-together in Ohio.

Chapter Champions

Fifty exhibitors and 15 herdsmen from the East Butler FFA of Brainard, Nebraska, recently returned from a very successful state fair. They had captured the honors of being the all around outstanding livestock exhibitors, receiving the Block and Bridle trophy in the state of Nebraska. This traveling trophy is given every year to the chapter with the most and best quality animals.

Any Nebraska chapter that wins it three years in succession gets to retire it permanently. We did it! We set that goal and achieved it!

With help from Advisor Gary Maricle, 65 energetic members set out with 171 head of livestock, 97 hogs, 40 cattle and 34 sheep. Everyone worked hard to keep the animals and alleys clean and it all paid off at the awards presentation on Sunday afternoon.

Our chapter received trophies for the beef and swine sweepstake for having the most high quality animals in each category. We were also awarded the swine and beef herdsmanship trophies and received second place for sheep herdsmanship. In all areas we brought home 13 trophies.

Two members were selected to report

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in the FFA press corps. Four medals were given in the state to outstanding reporters and both members received medals—for photography and for reporting. *(Sandy Janak, Reporter)*

Plan for FFA WEEK

FFA efforts at chapter, state and national levels in 1978 will rally around the theme FFA at 50 "A Golden PAST • a brighter future."

Kickoff point for using this theme for most local chapters will be during National FFA WEEK—February 18-25. This theme was already introduced at the past National FFA Convention as the kickoff for the organization's Golden Anniversary.

The purpose of a national FFA theme and particularly a National FFA WEEK celebration is to provide chapters an opportunity to get additional publicity or public awareness for their vocational agriculture and FFA programs.

Every week can be an FFA WEEK and hopefully chapters will continue throughout the year to stress their involvement in agriculture, involvement in leadership training, involvement in working together cooperatively, and involvement in preparing for future careers. The WEEK comes in February around George Washington's traditional birthday celebration.

Promotional materials have been developed by *The National FUTURE FARMER* to aid chapters in conducting effective programs during the WEEK. They are available from the FFA Supply Service catalog.

FFA WEEK materials include the traditional outdoor billboards, posters, placemats, program leaflets, TV slides, seals, pocket notebooks, envelope stuffers, vinyl litterbags, bumper strips, pens, radio spots, name badges, a bulletin board kit and a self-standing display. New items for 1978 are banquet table center pieces, rolls of blue and gold crepe paper streamers to use in chapter decorating projects and a commercial window decal for stores and businesses to salute FFA.

Also for the anniversary, there are alternate choices for the outdoor billboard and the recorded radio spots.

Some items do not have a date or mention of FFA WEEK and they are particularly useful all year.

An order brochure and order forms were mailed to all local chapters. A How-To-Do-It and Idea Packet was included. The packet gives detailed information about the best way to use WEEK materials and get publicity. It has sections on press, radio, TV sample scripts and other ideas. It also includes ideas that have worked for other chapters. PLUS a clip sheet for use in newspapers and a FREE poster.

Send any requests for further information, requests if your chapter has not received ordering materials, or any ideas your chapter would like to share: FFA WEEK Activities, *The National FUTURE FARMER*, P.O. Box 15130, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. Plan for the nationwide celebration of FFA's 50th.

Chapters do many unusual things during their National FFA WEEK celebration like the tractor "drive-in" held by Dover-Eyota, Minnesota, FFA.

First for Blood

A bloodmobile was sponsored by the Sun Valley FFA Chapter in Monroe, North Carolina.

The bloodmobile was very successful, collecting 122 pints of blood. It was the first time anywhere in the area that a bloodmobile has ever been sponsored by an FFA chapter and was the first bloodmobile to ever be sponsored in a high school in this area.

Monroe FFA was the first group to be honored with a Big Drop award shown by chapter sweetheart Kim Jackson.

The bloodmobile was so successful that the Red Cross is planning to have two bloodmobiles at the school during the 1977-78 school year. Also the Red Cross is planning to hold bloodmobiles in each of the high schools in this county next school year and give an award plaque to the school which has the highest percentage of donors.

A special type of plaque was awarded to the FFA chapter for the outstanding job they did in sponsoring the bloodmobile. Called the Big Drop Award, it was the first such award to be given. *(M. W. Mangum, Advisor)*

"It's orders to switch to the metric system."

Contentment. Sam's farm stretches out below his bird's eye view.

Sam Adams

(Continued from Page 15)

wise, perhaps to be able to handle twice as many cattle in the future.

"I might as well spend the money to make the set-up nicer now, because I have a lot of years around here yet." Although he has spent a good bit of money on the farm house recently, "the barn always comes first."

"All I really need is a bale of straw to sleep on and maybe somethin' to cook with," he smiled. A statement like that might indicate that he has gone off the deep end and needs to look at his priorities. He's already done that. The realization that his life was too one-sided with work really hit him during the summer of 1973. That's when he was farming almost 300 acres almost single-handedly and still doing custom machinery work for others.

"I was workin' 16- to 20-hour days that year," he said, "and I got sick because I wasn't gettin' enough food or sleep. That's when I decided that there was more to life than just work."

That was another turning point for Adams—away from big, big, big, and back toward per-unit production, trying to squeeze the most out of each acre and each cow.

"I guess I learned the hard way about the per-unit business. Right now I'm finally getting my herd average back up to the place it was way back before I started doing too many things and not taking good care of my cows."

He thinks that too many farmers are brainwashed into "big" these days—that size has become overemphasized.

"All you ever see in the farm magazines are these guys that have 500, 1,000, or 2,000 or so acres. I sometimes wonder why none of those magazines ever have anything about the smaller operation, how someone like me does things."

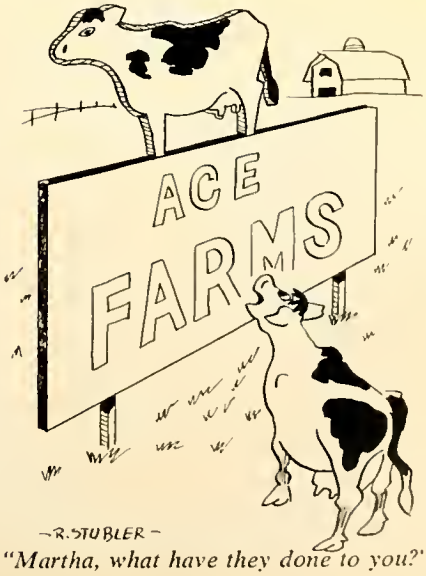
"I've talked to a lot of kids that want to farm 400 or 500 acres . . . as the voice of experience I try to tell them that there's more to it than that, that you've got to work up through and try for good per-unit production."

Sam Adams is a voice of experience that might just as easily not have been. The rough fight to overcome his lack of opportunity leaned toward success by weight of his ambition and determination. An occurance years ago in the high school vo-ag classroom better helps to illustrate it. The class was introducing itself one by one in a name, projects, future plans manner to a pair of student teachers. When Sam's turn came he finished with telling them he was planning on farming. The snickers throughout the class were too pronounced to overlook.

"I guess I got a little heated up. I pointed to several of those guys and told them that if I had the opportunity they had, I sure would be making better use of it. I suppose I should have been put in my place pretty quick, but Mr. Nowels let me go for a little bit. Since then I've heard that he used that story to inspire the incoming freshman classes.

"You know, it's kind of like an old man, a guy I used to farm for, told me once. He said that life was like a car going down a hill. You can stand beside the road and watch it go by; you can sit in the back seat and just ride along, or you can be up front and steer it yourself."

Sam seems to be up front and well-belted in.



"Martha, what have they done to you?"

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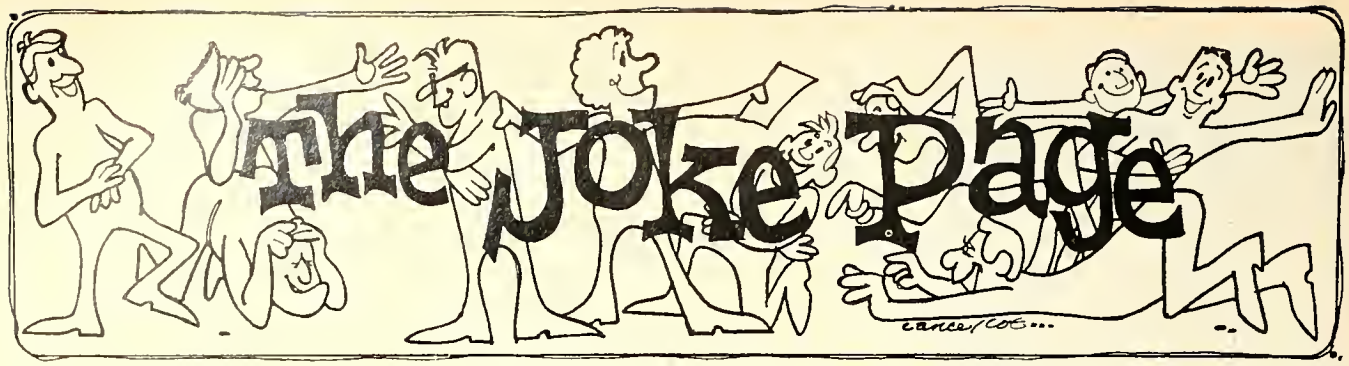


The clerk asked the woman buying the drinking trough for her dog if she wanted one marked: "For the Dog."

"It really doesn't matter," she replied. *"My husband doesn't drink water and the dog can't read."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

Sign on a billboard: *"You are not watching the road."*

Norma Keith
Centerville, Ohio

"The most beautiful chick in the world? Boy, do you ever have the wrong number!"

Farmer: *"Say, you've sure got a lot of nerve to come down in a parachute with this 100-mile-an-hour gale."*

Camper: *"I didn't come down in a parachute. I went up in a tent."*

Thomas LaMance
Modesto, California

Rube, a hired hand on a Maine farm, guessed the weight of a hog exactly.

"How did you do it?" he was asked.

"Tain't nothing," drawled Rube modestly. *"Sometimes I do even better."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

First: *"I have a pig allergic to mud."*

Second: *"So what. I've got a horse with hay fever."*

Hubert Meyer
Ocala, Florida

Grace: *"Say Alice, why do you have a lemon in your ear?"*

Alice: *"You've heard of a hearing aid, haven't you? Well, this is a lemon aid."*

Charley Faughn
Campbell, Missouri

A farmer saw a gorilla in his tree so he called an animal catcher to come and get the gorilla. The animal catcher arrived with an old English sheep dog, a pair of handcuffs and a shotgun. He told the farmer he would climb the tree and shake the limb until the gorilla fell to the ground, then the sheep dog would bite him and while the gorilla was recovering the farmer should snap the handcuffs on him. The farmer then asked, *"But what is the shotgun for?"* The animal catcher replied, *"That's in case I fall out of the tree first, shoot the sheep dog."*

Wayne Van Langingham
Rogers, Arkansas

A city slicker was overheard saying to his wife: *"How come so many small towns are named after water towers?"*

Anita Buerg
Butterfield, Minnesota

Q: Why does a watermelon have so much water in it?

A: Because it is planted in the spring.

Richard Hable
Birnamwood, Wisconsin

Farmer Brown: *"The soil is so good in my south pasture, I decided to plant some melons. But I couldn't eat them."*

Farmer Jones: *"But you said the soil was good."*

Farmer Brown: *"Too good. The vines grew so fast in that good soil, they wore out the melons draggin' 'em around."*

Dede Bahr
Fallbrook, California

Small Boy: *"I won a prize in kindergarten today. The teacher asked how many legs a hippopotamus has and I said three."*

Father: *"Three? How could you have won the prize?"*

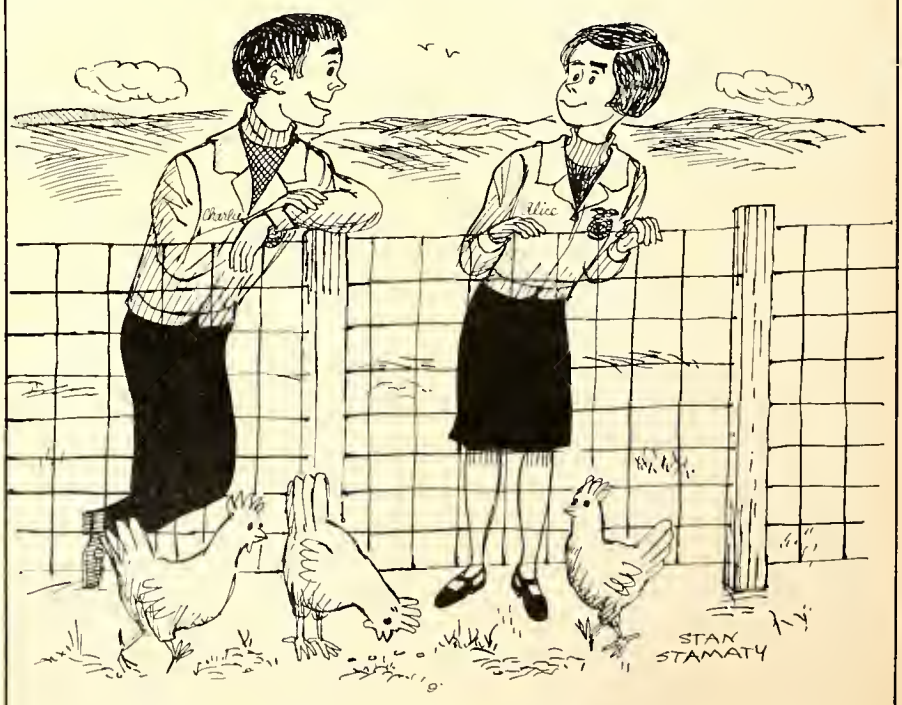
Small Boy: *"I came the closest."*

Ronnie Mriscin
Sorento, Illinois

There once was a young farmer whose girl refused to marry him for religious reasons. He was broke and she worshiped money.

Lea Ann Fillmore
Waco, Texas

Charlie, the Greenhand



"A peanut farmer made it, why not a chicken farmer?"

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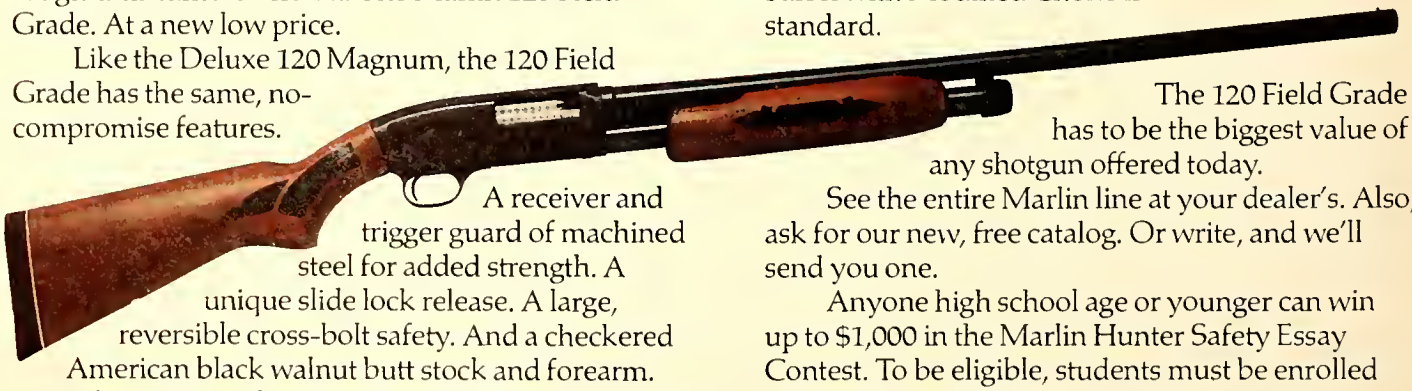

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